SOBER SADNESS:

OR,

Historicall Obſervations upon the proceedings, pretences, and deſignes of a prevailing party in both Houſes of *PARLIAMENT.*

With the reſolution of all loyall Subjects, and true Proteſtants of the Church of ENGLAND thereupon.

ISAIAH 33. 1.

VVoe to thee that ſpoileſt, and thou waſt not ſpoiled: and that dealeſt treacherouſly, and they dealt not treacherouſly with thee: when thou ceaſeſt to ſpoile, thou ſhalt be ſpoiled.

ISAIAH 29. 16.

Surely your turning of things upſide downe ſhall be eſteemed as the Potters clay.

Printed for *W. Webb* Book-ſeller, neare *Queenes Colledge.* M. DC. XLIII.

B 166522 90

A Preface to the READER.

THE *particular* exorbitances *of mans life are ſo many thriving* offſetts *from that bitter root, his* originall depravation. *He that allowes his ſoule to be impaired onely in her inferiour faculties, his deniall of the reſt is proofe enough againſt him.* His minde and conſcience is defiled, *and in this conſtitution makes* ſnares *of every* clew *ordain'd to guide him; as well thoſe of divine, as thoſe of humane* ſpinning. *Being ſenſible that his* lampe *by nature wants* oyle *and* trimming, *if he pretends to have his defect of light ſupply'd by the extemporary* flaſhes *of inſpiration, he preſently inviteth* Satan *to be his guide with his darke Lantherne. When this light is ſet up before him, he thinkes he hath left all the world beſides in that* darkeneſſe, *to which himſelfe travelleth, miſtaking* ſingularity *for the* ſtraight way. *This light (kindled on purpoſe to diſtract and dazle) puts him into a reſtleſſe* phrenzie. *This* phrenzie *is put upon the account of* zeale, *and every murther that* zeale *commits is a reputed* Sacrifice. *The time will come, ſaith* Chriſt, That he that killeth you will thinke he doth God ſervice. *This* ſtrange fire *as* wilde *as 'tis, hath beene offer'd up by ſundry* Sects *in all* Ages *of the* Church; *but through the wiſedome and juſtice of God, hath beene diſpos'd to conſume the* offerers. *The* Factious *of our times are like to draw the ſame Judgement upon their owne heads, if we may conjecture by the ſudden anſwer to that* Petition *ſo often repeated by the Lord* Brooke *before his laſt enterpriſe*: viz. Lord, if this action be not for thy glory, cut me off ſpeedily. *No armour is of* proofe *to withſtand* God, *ſo earneſtly* challenged *to the vindication of his owne* glory. *This* Lord *being once demanded (according to the uſuall* ſalutation *of the times) what* newes? *reply'd, he could tell no* newes, *but he could tell* miracles; *and* theſe *were nothing elſe but that ſtrange* ſucceſſe *which God had given againſt all* advantages *on the other ſide to his* Annointed. *I'le leave the* expreſſion *betwixt* jeſt *and* earneſt. *Every man may carry it as his judgement ſhall direct him: But ſurely* wiſe men *are of opinion his Lordſhip had at that time little reaſon to ſpeake* Ironically. *Whether he* marcht *againſt the light of a* ſelfe-conviction, *I determine not. There are that take upon them to* cite *all men living to the* Barre *of their private* cenſure; *and not confining their* juriſdiction *here,* ſit *upon the* life *and* death *of thoſe* ſoules *that have paſt their* accounts *to their owne* Maſters. *Let them rejoyce in this* practice *that retaine it, as a* diſtinguiſhing *marke of their* profeſſion. *For my part I ſhall ſay no more then I*

may

may say safely: God in his wisedome thought it not fit to advance his owne glory *any further by the* life *and* action *of such an* Instrument; *And let his* example *be an admonition unto* us *that have surviv'd* him, *to premeditate at least our* imprecations, *considering how soone* omnipotency *can returne* them *into our owne* bosomes.

If men would seriously consider how many parties *have followed the direction of such* guides *as pretended to* infallibility, *and yet their* Religion *hath been* Rebellion, *their* faith Faction, *and their* zeale a murthering *of innocents by a common construction; and then* reflect *upon the* distempers *of* these *times, and how they have beene dietted: This might prove an effectuall meanes to recover* some, *and prevent the farther spreading of this dangerous* leprousie *in others. To this purpose serves this insuing discovery; wherein a strict account is taken of* three *generall* heads, *as the most received* summes, *out of which our* miseries *have beene more particularly* disbursed. *They are the* proceedings, pretences *and* designes *of, &c. In the* designes *we see the* end *aimed at: In the* pretences, *the* way *by which they have travail'd towards that* end: *And in their* proceedings, *their* progresse *in that* way. *Wee shall decline that exact* method *used in* handling *every* Discipline; *because what are* præcognita *to them* (*as all* designes *are to the contrivers*) *are* postcognita *to us. We can deduce them but by way of* inference, *and therefore having laid downe the other as the two* premisses, *we shall draw these into the* conclusion.

1. *In their* proceedings: *If our discourse be guilty of too much* prolixity (*as it may be to those who have heard them so oft repeated*) *remember we are to relate by what* meanes *their* party *grew to be so* potent; *His* Majesties *sundry invitations unto* peace, *and readinesse to embrace* Petitions *of that nature; whiles they labour to* stifle *or* reject *them; The sundry* practices *they have used to support their declining* cause *and* faction; *and how violently they have borne themselves up, aswell against sundry* discouragements, *as against the solid grounds of* truth *and* reason.

2. *Amongst their* pretences *we shall finde these* colours: *The* Defence *and* Reformation *of* Religion, *by* rooting *out* Episcopacy, Scandalous Ministers, Pluralities, *and the* Temporall employments *of the* Clergy; *The* security *of His* Majesties Royall Person, Crowne, *and* Dignity; *with the* Liberty *and* Property *of the* Subject; *The* tryall *of* Delinquents, *&c.*

3. *Their* designes: *The* subversion *of the* Governement *both of* Church *and* State, *found upon good* evidence; *with a serious* recollection *of our* selves *to the* practice *of a resolved* loyaltie.

The

390

The Complaint of the Kingdome againſt the evill Members of both Houſes, who have upon deſigne brought in *Ruine* under a pretence of *Reformation*.

Relating to that former *Complaint* made by the Citie and Counties adjacent.

WE are glad our brethren are ſo well recovered out of their *Lethargie*, as to be able to informe us, that they are growne ſenſible of their miſeries. We confeſſe, our ſelves lay ſtupified in a too unhappy dreame or tameneſſe, till this Alarm did awaken us; and now beſides the ſympathie and compaſſion that we have of the afflictions of our neighbours, the ſenſe of our owne ſufferings is ſo ſharpe, that we are forced to *circumflect* the ſad accents of their juſt *Complaint*. More need not be added to that *Relation* by way of ſupplement, to perfect the horrible *Anatomy* of our miſeries: Yet we conceive it will not be in vaine to diſcover who they were that (pretending to *reforme* even our happineſſe, and then to ſecure that happineſſe by ſuch impregnable fortifications, as God never yet vouchſafed to fence in temporall bleſſings withall) did at the ſame time nothing elſe but make that interruption and breach of our ſweet reſt, which betrayed us unto all theſe diſtempers which have ſucceeded; and how our repoſe, which ſhould be prevalent to reſtore us, is now diſcontinued, as it was at firſt diſturbed, by the very ſame men againſt our wills.

Under the pretence of the worke of God theſe diſtractions crept in upon us, and what ever the deſigne be (we ſhall examine that anon) Gods title is made ſo ſtrong to it, aſwell by States men as Divines, that they thinke his omnipotency as deeply ingaged, as their owne deare intereſts, or ſeduced conſciences to goe through with it. But we muſt profeſſe, that what that *great worke of God is*, which their actions aime at, hath never beene ſufficiently, can never be unanimouſly (by themſelves) declared. God hath many workes, and ſome that are fit to goe thorow none, but thoſe accurſed hands of *Judas*; and if they would prevaile with us for our *patience* and *ſubmiſſion*, they muſt produce ſome prophecie; that infallibly makes them the ruine of their *King and Countrey*. But yet we ſhould take leave to tell them, that it is not ſuch a comfortable employment to be made the rod of Gods anger, becauſe though his wiſedome uſeth, his goodneſſe loveth not the inſtrument of his childrens correction: The rod is alwayes burnt for doing malicious execution.

Was the worke to chaſtiſe the pride of the King (as ſome have intimated) with a greater; or as ſome thought and expreſt freely, to root out *Epiſcopacy*, *Deanes*, and *Chapters*, that they might eſtabliſh their owne preaching Miniſtry, or themſelves in their Revenues? This would have beene a glorious *Reformation* of thoſe grand errours of their fore-fathers charity, when that true Devotion that had expatiated their hearts, opened their treaſures to, and made them too laviſh in their expences upon Gods worſhip. Now the effects of that zeale which burneth in our *Worthies*, are to bring downe the price of our *Religion*, to ſerve God at a cheaper rate, and to offer Sacrifice of that which coſt them nothing. What ever the *worke* was, we ſee what worke it hath made amongſt us; and if we obſerve the ſteps by which it hath aſcended, we ſhall eaſily perceive, the Authors thought it could not ſucceed otherwiſe then by violence. What ever the modell be, the ſtructure was not likely to be ſet up, as the holy Temple was, without any ſound of *Axe* or *Hammer*, but *with confuſed noiſe, and garments rolled in blood*. The truth is, deſpairing of *Gods ſpeed*, we have

cauſe

cauſe to beleeve they reſolved to take the Devils. Hence were thoſe Tumults raiſed, Riots juſtified, ſome whereof were of that deſperate nature, that the *Ring-leaders* of them made it the *emphaſis* of their enraged paſſion, to cry out, *The King is the Traytor*: *The King is not fit to live*: *The Prince would governe better*. Thoſe that heard theſe things, and are ready to make proofe of them, have good reaſon to thinke His Majeſtie was driven from *London*, and not much miſſed by thoſe evill Counſellours that advertiſed him of the danger.

Thus was the King and many of His Subjects little better entertained in the ſtreets: And did His Majeſties friends finde any better wellcome in both Houſes? Were not thoſe Houſes made a Sanctuary to the moſt deſperate *Delinquents*, if they had learned to tune their Votes to the prevailing, becauſe violent partly; whileſt gallant ſober Gentlemen, who preferred ſolid reaſon and their owne conſcience, before any popular Arguments, were poſted up and baniſh't from them? For examples of the former, I need adde no more to the Inſtances in the *Complaint*, then Maſter *Griffith*, who being guilty of a barbarous attempt upon the Lady *Sidleyes* chaſtity, and complained of for the ſame, yet the Houſe was ſo farre from ſuffering it ſelfe to be purged of this *able* Member, that they were pleaſed to advance him to an honourable office (if any office may be ſtiled honourable) in their *Holy Army*: And this is the man that was lately ſent out in ſo much pompe with his ſilver Trumpets.

On the other ſide, becauſe ſome worthy Members of both Houſes were privy to more of their deſignes, then they could with a cleare heart aſſent unto; 'tis probable (though for no other reaſon) if this violent party could have conſtrued their actions (by any rules or exceptions) into Treaſon, they ſhould have loſt their heads to ſecure their memories from betraying Cloſe-Committee ſecrets. Thus many Gentlemen of knowne integrity were deprived of thoſe priviledges wherewith they were inveſted, aſwell by the *Authority* of the King, as the *ſuffrage* of their Countrey; and expoſed to the rage of a rude multitude, cauſeleſly incenſed: and yet if they fled after their

Under the pretence of the worke of God theſe diſtractions crept in upon us, and what ever the deſigne be (we ſhall examine that anon) Gods title is made ſo ſtrong to it, aſwell by States men as Divines, that they thinke his omnipotency as deeply ingaged, as their owne deare intereſts, or ſeduced conſciences to goe through with it. But we muſt profeſſe, that what that *great worke of God is*, which their actions aime at, hath never beene ſufficiently, can never be unanimouſly (by themſelves) declared. God hath many workes, and ſome that are fit to goe thorow none, but thoſe accurſed hands of *Judas*; and if they would prevaile with us for our *patience* and *ſubmiſſion*, they muſt produce ſome prophecie; that infallibly makes them the ruine of their *King and Countrey*. But yet we ſhould take leave to tell them, that it is not ſuch a comfortable employment to be made the rod of Gods anger, becauſe though his wiſedome uſeth, his goodneſſe loveth not the inſtrument of his childrens correction: The rod is alwayes burnt for doing malicious execution.

Was the worke to chaſtiſe the pride of the King (as ſome have intimated) with a greater; or as ſome thought and expreſt freely, to root out *Epiſcopacy*, *Deanes*, and *Chapters*, that they might eſtabliſh their owne preaching Miniſtry, or themſelves in their Revenues? This would have beene a glorious *Reformation* of thoſe grand errours of their fore-fathers charity, when that true Devotion that had expatiated their hearts, opened their treaſures to, and made them too laviſh in their expences upon Gods worſhip. Now the effects of that zeale which burneth in our *Worthies*, are to bring downe the price of our *Religion*, to ſerve God at a cheaper rate, and to offer Sacrifice of that which coſt them nothing. What ever the *worke* was, we ſee what worke it hath made amongſt us; and if we obſerve the ſteps by which it hath aſcended, we ſhall eaſily perceive, the Authors thought it could not ſucceed otherwiſe then by violence. What ever the modell be, the ſtructure was not likely to be ſet up, as the holy Temple was, without any ſound of *Axe* or *Hammer*, but *with confuſed noiſe, and garments rolled in blood*. The truth is, deſpairing of *Gods ſpeed*, we have

cauſe

cauſe to beleeve they reſolved to take the Devils. Hence were thoſe Tumults raiſed, Riots juſtified, ſome whereof were of that deſperate nature, that the *Ring-leaders* of them made it the *emphaſis* of their enraged paſſion, to cry out, *The King is the Traytor*: *The King is not fit to live*: *The Prince would governe better*. Thoſe that heard theſe things, and are ready to make prooſe of them, have good reaſon to thinke His Majeſtie was driven from *London*, and not much miſſed by thoſe evill Counſellours that advertiſed him of the danger.

Thus was the King and many of His Subjects little better entertained in the ſtreets: And did His Majeſties friends finde any better wellcome in both Houſes? Were not thoſe Houſes made a Sanctuary to the moſt deſperate *Delinquents*, if they had learned to tune their Votes to the prevailing, becauſe violent partly; whileſt gallant ſober Gentlemen, who preferred ſolid reaſon and their owne conſcience, before any popular Arguments, were poſted up and baniſh't from them? For examples of the former, I need adde no more to the Inſtances in the *Complaint*, then Maſter *Griffith*, who being guilty of a barbarous attempt upon the Lady *Sidleyes* chaſtity, and complained of for the ſame, yet the Houſe was ſo farre from ſuffering it ſelfe to be purged of this *able* Member, that they were pleaſed to advance him to an honourable office (if any office may be ſtiled honourable) in their *Holy Army*: And this is the man that was lately ſent out in ſo much pompe with his ſilver Trumpets.

On the other ſide, becauſe ſome worthy Members of both Houſes were privy to more of their deſignes, then they could with a cleare heart aſſent unto; 'tis probable (though for no other reaſon) if this violent party could have conſtrued their actions (by any rules or exceptions) into Treaſon, they ſhould have loſt their heads to ſecure their memories from betraying Cloſe-Committee ſecrets. Thus many Gentlemen of knowne integrity were deprived of thoſe priviledges wherewith they were inveſted aſwell by the *Authority* of the King, as the *ſuffrage* of their Countrey; and expoſed to the rage of a rude multitude, cauſeleſly incenſed: and yet if they fled after their

Soveraigne, to seeke that security at a distance, which (retaining a good conscience) they could not promise themselves under the *influence* of both Houses, they were presently declared *Delinquents*, as if they could not be friends to themselves, nor loyall to their King, without perill to the Kingdome: and after the power of the Countrey refused to bring them up, (finding no just ground for it) an *Army* is voted to be levied to apprehend them; and then all their miscarriages (possibly but of humane frailty) being summ'd up together, if the totall would have amounted (as it easily might have done) to a *constructive* Treason, their lifes had beene rendred a prey to a *Legislative*, that is, an unlimited power, as blind as a man's selfe-will or malice, and their fortunes an oblation to these mens ambition.

Thus having cast out the great ones, who were not like to fall into, or continue in their owne hands, and cunningly shuffled with the rest; they soone packt their Cardes so, as the die should never be carried (in any matter of consequence, for in triviall things they could differ upon designe) against them. The violent course they tooke made a strong side quickly, and indeed the streame grew too violent to be interrupted; and whatsoever was done by the wisedome of His Majestie to turne the *Torrent*, that it might not bring this *Inundation*, which it hath now brought upon His Royall Government; such was the power and reputation that these men had purchased amongst the people, not by their owne merit, but His Majesties *Acts of grace* conveighed through their hands to them, that it was easily made use of to His Majesties disadvantage.

His Majesty upon a timely discovery of the first rising of this proud malignant tumour, applied nothing but the gentle *lenitives* of his favour to asswage and allay it: At last, after the emptying of a whole treasury of acts of grace unto his people, finding them ineffectuall to stop the current of their blind fury, and desirous to prevent those inconveniences, which we now by that meanes groane under (justice being denyed to his Ministers on this behalfe) was drawne into a necessity of going

into

into the Houſe of *Commons* in his owne perſon, to demand the principall Engineers (as His Majeſty had then good reaſon to conceive, and all men now to ſuſpect) of this deſtructive ſtratagem. And ſeeing what we now ſee, and feeling what we now feele, we might have had a juſt occaſion to haue given that miſtake the Title of an happy *errour*, as being a likely meanes, if it had taken effect, to have prevented theſe diſtempers that have inſued, and ſettled our peace and truth to the generall contentment of the whole Kingdome, and all this without any prejudice to thoſe mens reputation, if that charge had not beene proved againſt them. But this errour was a weapon they have made much uſe of in all their Remonſtrances and Declarations, and indeed the only one that hath beene with any colour alleadged to their advantage. As for the bringing up of the *Engliſh Army*, that was but a leaden Dagger that never wounded the Kings honour amongſt them that underſtood it truly. But this errour in His Majeſty was reckoned a crime of a greater magnitude, then the Treaſon it ſelfe whereof the Members were accuſed, and His Majeſty is *endighted* for it in every *pamphlet* before the *barr* of every vulgar Judgement, where uſually the charge is not ſooner read, then the ſentence of condemnation pronounced.

After they had raiſed their greatneſſe to this height upon thoſe prejudices, which they had laid againſt His Majeſty (eſpecially upon this miſtake for which he hath done *penance* ſo often in their foule ſheets) they reſolved either to ſettle what their fond ambition had deſigned, or elſe to ſacrifice the peace and happineſſe of the Kingdome to their owne fury. And having failed (God be praiſed) of ſucceſſe hitherto, they continue as farr diſtant in heart from any inclinations to our redreſſe, as the meanes is, which they have propounded to effect it.

When they ſeized upon the Kings *Militia*, they made faſt addreſſes to our Ruine. And ſince we know by a ſad, a very ſad experience, what a long and effectuall progreſſe they have made in it. It cannot but ſeeme ſtrange, that they ſhould preſume with ſo much confidence to derive a power of taking *Armes* to themſelves, and ground it upon the *fundamentall lawes* of the

Kingdome, and yet (having ſet up as ſtrict an *inquiſition* for *preſidents* as for *Delinquents*) now after ſo many monthes elucubrations, not one fragment of law produced to that purpoſe. Nay, if our owne skill and the opinion of learned and honeſt Judges, (who muſt not be conſulted with in this controverſie) deceive us not, it is an attempt which the law provides againſt under no lower Title then *high Treaſon*. And yet a circulation of reports had ſo charmed us, and breathed ſo many cold feares and jealouſies upon us, and theſe ſo preſt by the weight of that Authority, which (whiles it moved upon its own Center) we highly reverenced, that growing deafe to our own duty at home, we uſurpt the office of our Soveraigne, for our protection againſt pretended forraigne dangers. But after a little ſucceſſion of time had undeceived us, we perceived no other dangers threatning us, then ſuch as were now a caſting in that very *mould*, which (we were told) was made for our ſecurity.

The hedge of our *Government* (becauſe ſome *Weeds* accidentally ſprung up in it, or elſe for that it had many *thornes*, as all good *fences* ſhould have, to afflict tranſgreſſours that run over it) was cried quite downe, and pull'd as low as *libertiniſme* could lay it, ſo that our faire and fruitfull *incloſure* was laid into a wild and waſt *Common*. Indeed they had very providently deſigned a new *paile*, but the cheife workemen could not agree in what faſhion to ſaw it out.

And in the interim moſt men (as they were ingaged or incouraged) had quitted thoſe *Trenches*, which Almighty God had *digg'd* for them in his holy *Ordinances*, and waited to take Sanctuary in the *Fortifications* of their projecting. Now to raiſe theſe (becauſe they were to encounter with many difficulties) they muſt have the *Sword* as well as the *Trewell*, that (if need were) they might *build* and *fight* together. To this end (the *Scots* who had beene kept long upon this deſigne, being diſmiſt) they attempted to wreſt the ſword out of the hand of the King, the proper owner. A fatall attempt that *preſaged* perill to the *aſſailants*; for *he that* (thus) *takes the ſword* (againſt that authority that hath the ſole power of it) *ſhall periſh*

by the ſword. And truly God hath miraculouſly made it evident, that his *Vicegerent beareth not the ſword in vaine.* Not that His Majeſty delights to unſheath the ſword of Juſtice, more then for exemplary puniſhment, though he hath lately met with ſuch extreme provocations, as were enough to exaſperate the ſofteſt nature into fury. We find a ſweet ſtraine of grace and mercy run through the whole *Tragedie* of his ſufferings, and doubtleſſe had there beene a ſuitable correſpondence in the inclinations of others, the Kingdome had not at this day beene ſtained in ſo deep a *die* of blood. How much of his undoubted *rights* did His Majeſty freely ſacrifice for the ſatisfaction of his people? If we ſhould reckon up all his acts of grace (as well thoſe which have beene abuſed to our diſadvantage, as thoſe whereof we are in hope to reape the fruit hereafter) they will abundantly recompence all thoſe preſſures which evill *counſellours* had formerly brought upon us. And (as if he could deny his people nothing whilſt they ſuffered him to keepe any thing for himſelfe) hee graciouſly offered to commit to *hands of their own chooſing*, ſo large a ſhare of the *Militia*, as might have rendred them ſecure, if ſecurity (in a juſt and legall way) had beene all they ſought for. But ſome of them having gotten too great an intereſt, as well in the *faith*, as in the *affections* of the people, (who could not prevaile with themſelves to be perſwaded, they aimed leſſe at His Majeſties Honour, then at the publike good) in confidence of their ſtrength came roundly to the buſineſſe, and ſeized upon that by force, which (their very petitions can witneſſe, for theſe were not petitions of *right*) was not due unto them. And now the King hath as much reaſon to exhibite a petition of *right* for the ſecuring of his *property*, as ever the Subject had. His Forts and Townes are kept by violence, his goods arreſted, and his owne Armes taken up to reſiſt him to his face, and theſe will not be reſtored, till he condeſcend to a *compoſition*. Nineteen propoſitions are ſent downe to him, that His Majeſty would be content with a *twentieth* part, whileſt the reſt of the *Crown* is ſhared between both Houſes. Theſe ſeemed to be very ſtrange propoſitions, in the opinion of *Loyall* Subjects, who wiſht their King as much glo-

ry,

ry, as these men had promised him. Yet these were so far from altering His Majesties desires of peace, that he vouchsafed to answer them; and to give either the thing demanded, or a reason of his deniall, which was better; and yet so farr from satisfaction, that wise men did equally admire the Kings *grace*, and their *unthankefullnesse*.

What should His Majesty do? It was high time (after so many threatning votes, and hostility actually excercised at *Hull* against His Royall Person) to provide for the defence of Himself, and His good Subjects that attended Him, lest their *loyalty* should betray them to inevitable destruction. Hence a *guard* was raised for the safety of His Majesties Royall Person, and that consisted of the cheife *Gentry*, that could not reasonably be presumed to contribute assistance to the *enslaving* of themselves & their posterity. And yet this small *guard* is presently declared to be raised for the subversion of *Parliament*, &, in that, of all our native *liberties*. His Majesty was not so happy in His meanes of *undeceiving* His good people, (as He hath beene since) the reputation of His *Royall Word* being blasted (to gaine credit to themselves) by their black-mouth'd *Remonstrances*. And yet all these reports (though their credit was much improved by the *Authority* of both Houses) had a very ample and sufficient *confutation* by severall messages of peace sent from *Nottingham*. Now if we looke to the reception, it was nothing suitable to the errand; which (if we may conclude from the entertainment) was so farre from finding a complyance of inclinations, that it met with very little *Civility* or good nature amongst them. For interpreting all these Acts of *grace* but instances of his *weakenesse*, they were more desperately bent, and urged by new votes, that their Army might advance to make a speedy assault upon them. Where by the way let me hint thus much: If those severall messages proceeded out of *weakenesse*, we may take notice of a speciall Providence, that so suddainly encreas'd His Majesties forces even to *admiration*. But if the said propo-sals were the genuine offspring of a gracious Prince, then they were extremely unthankefull to slight the noble messengers, and so scornfully to cast so many offers of a peace behind them. As

weake

weake as His Majeſty was, Almighty God preſerved him from their fury and was his ſafe *convoy* to *Edge-hill*; where (having beene formerly advertiſed of a petition) he might very well have expected ſome handſome addreſſe before an alarum from them. 'Tis true, they ſay a very humble petition (ſubſcribed with a deale of Ceremony by both Houſes) was committed to the hands of the *Generall* (*the Earle of Eſſex.*) but it ſeemes it was ordered (if they conceived it for their advantage, which they ſuppoſed they had then gotten) to be delivered and made report of, by the mouth of a *Cannon*. Well, theſe men, who were too mighty to imbrace an offered peace (as gods providence would have it) were ſo diſcomfitted (if we may have leave to ſpeake the truth) that by that time His Majeſty was advanced to *Colebrooke*, their weakeneſſe had inclined them (and in good time be it ſpoken, it was the firſt ſtep they ſet) to an *Accommodation*. And His Majeſty (not triumphing in the ruine of His worſt ſubjects, being a looſing *Conquerour* in ſo ſad a victory, nor deſirous to improve the vſe of His ſword, beyond the recovering of His juſt rights; and ſettling that law by which He holds them) met them with a gracious and ready cheerefullneſſe to accompliſh it. But in the interim, whileſt the meſſengers are making their addreſſes to His Majeſty, the ſouldiers, purſuing their ſad though juſt and neceſſary imployment, advanced to *Brainceford*, and becauſe they put the *Red* Regiment and ſome others (as is conceived) to the worſt, they are accuſed of *treachery*. Nay the King Himſelfe muſt be ſlandered, though (if the matter be well examined) they had no reaſon to complaiue, but that the day went againſt them; For can a ſouldier expect *quarter* before he askes it? Or an Army imagine to be at *truce* in the view of the enemy before a *truce* be moved? In other places upon *Treaties* of this nature, Courts of Guard are doubled; and were they ſo unacquainted with the cuſtomes of warre, as not to provide againſt all advantages of the enemy? I know not what they expected from His Majeſty, but I am ſure His Majeſty never found more faire play from *them*, (though His ſubjects) nor ſo much as he might have done from a *forreigne* enemy. Admit they did upon ſecond

thoughts ſend a Meſſenger to deſire a *Ceſſation* from all hoſtile acts; we know the buſineſſe was put in execution before the Meſſengers arrivall, nay, it ſtopt him in the midſt of his journey. If they had beene deſirous to prevent all further *effuſion* of bloud, the motion ſhould have beene made more ſeaſonably (as it might have beene by their firſt Meſſengers) to His Majeſtie. What *Revelations* other men may goe upon, we know not; but we are ſure His Majeſtie doth not pretend to be acquainted with their deſires by inſpiration. And His Majeſties forces had great reaſon to uſe all meanes to fruſtrate the advantage which their enemies had taken. We know how their Souldiers had almoſt on all ſides invironed him, and new forces raiſed in *London*, advanced with ſpeed towards them, and why might not His Majeſtie advance forward, as well as His adverſaries? If they ſay, their Generall did but purſue their order, which was given the night before their Meſſengers ſet forth, they doe but tell us in effect, that they had laid the deſigne ſo cunningly, that themſelves might take any advantage freely; but if the King did the like, it was predeſtinated to be called Treachery.

We could tell of gracious Letters directed to the Houſe at that time, but intercepted by their Army, and committed cloſe priſoners to the Earle of *Eſſex* pockets, for no other crime then bringing peaceable intimations. The truth is, the mannagery of this Warre was committed to ſuch hands as were glad of any occaſion, colourably to decline the way of peace: For what did they ſay? *His Majeſtie is yet too ſtrong to be dealt withall by a Treaty*; which implieth, they muſt endeavour to ſecure His Royall Perſon by the ruine of thoſe whoſe loyalty hath raiſed them up to guard it, that they may the better ſubvert His Government before their owne deſigne could be effected.

Whilſt all their preparations are for battaile, His Majeſtie labours ſtill for peace; to which He once againe invites them by a Meſſage ſent from *Reading*: But they are now growne deafe on both eares to Propoſitions of that nature; and the very name of Accommodation (for we know the man that ſaid

he

he hated it) is become odious and malignant. They breath forth nothing but challenge and defiance againſt His Majeſtie; and theſe men that could cheerefully entertaine ſuitors of any condition, or any mans procuring: whileſt their Courtſhip was taught to woae them not to embrace what was fit or profitable for the Kingdome, but what their owne affections had made choice of, in order to the ſatisfying of their ambition. Now they grow coy, and frowne upon all ſuch as ſollicite them in the name of peace; as if ſhe were ſo farre from being an ingredient in it, that ſhe were the onely obſtacle to our happineſſe.

Firſt the bleeding miſeries of the Kingdome of *Ireland* (which muſt wholly be laid upon their ſcore, who have obſtructed their reliefe through theſe diſtempers of their owne raiſeing) ſpurr'd them on to frame their ſad Complaints into Supplications, to which His Majeſtie lent a gracious eare, and offered to contribute aſſiſtance in any way that could be propounded to Him: but the two Houſes (who were formerly very angry, that they might not have all the honour of reducing that wretched Kingdome) afforded little pitty, leſſe aid unto them; many bitter diſcontented ſpirits raiſing ſcruples and murmurings at the Petition, inſtead of applying themſelves to the reliefe of their diſtreſſes for the preſent, or to make a peace with His Majeſtie, (as was deſired) whereby they might be enabled to aſſiſt them for the future.

Then the many prodigious tokens of our ruine here at home began to awaken us, and make us ſolicitous for our owne ſafety. The moſt ſubſtantiall Citizens meeting together in no other ominous or formidable poſture, then with gloves on their hands to move a Petition for peace; and they are accuſed for committing a riot, and impriſoned, whileſt forces ſent to aſſault and murder them, are interpreted (by theſe great Doctors of the Law) to keepe the peace of the Kingdome.

Theſe men that have ſo long beguiled the people with falſe Alarmes, and never more then by pretending to have bent all their endeavours to worke a good underſtanding and reconciliation with His Majeſtie, have beene ſo farre from giving

countenance to Petitions of that nature, that all their endeavours have beene (and ſometimes by Meſſengers directed on purpoſe) to ſtrangle them; and ſuch *Gentlemen* as have beene imployed by their Countrey on ſuch *errands*, have for that ſervice-ſake beene plundered, their Horſes taken from them, (as our neighbours of *Eſſex* are able to depoſe;) and the authority of the Houſes by which they were taken, either cannot or will not be effectually exerciſed to recover them, but an *appeale* muſt be made from them unto the *cloſe-Committee*.

But what! is there no excuſe to be alleadged to take off the blemiſh of this action? Truly, their web is not of ſo plaine a ſpinning, but they have many pretty coloured threds runne thorow it. They'le tell us. *'Tis no more needfull for the people to ſpurre them on to their duty, then lawfull to direct them in it; ſuch Petitions are ſawcy breaches of their Priviledges: They have the ſole power to judge of ſenſe and reaſon, and the dangers of the Kingdome.* Indeed they have moſt reaſon to be acquainted with the nature of thoſe *dangers*, that were firſt *premeditated*, and ſince of their owne actuall forging. Certainly, as theſe men have laboured to thruſt out both our eyes, that we might not ſee; ſo they would extinguiſh our memories, that we might remember nothing. They ſhould engage ſome of their inſtruments to teach us an Art of forgetfulneſſe, in behalfe of many *Acts* in the time of their owne *reigne*, as well as an Art of memory, in behalfe of ſome ſufferings under the reigne of our Soveraigne: at leaſt, they ſhould have voted an *oblivion*, that their *owne* late *practices* of encouraging *Petitioners* of another ſtraine, as *bold* and *directory*, might not riſe up to their condemnation.

But why ſhould it be reputed a breach of good manners for Petitioners to ſuggeſt the meanes of their owne redreſſe? Every man knowes beſt where his owne ſhooe pinches. Neceſſity ſtands not upon Ceremonies, and doubtleſſe Beggers may be chooſers, when the choice is, Whether they will ſubmit to their owne ruine againſt Law and Equity, or mainteine thoſe Rights wherewith they are legally inveſted, under the Protection of a gracious Soveraigne, againſt the ſpoile and rapine of an *Arbitrary* power.

Well!

400

Well! if men that have lived under the dominion of *Mars* and *Sol*, (being taught by their effects to put a difference betwixt them) finding the first to be incomparably most malignant, begin to desire to be look't upon with a more propitious influence. If it be imputed for a crime to these men to Petition, that the storme (without doubt raised by spirits, in whom the Prince of the aire worketh, who worketh in all the children of disobedience) might be calmed, that they might enjoy their old comfortable sun-shine: Yet me-thinkes a motion for Peace (which no State till our dayes condemned for an *ill Minister*) made by one of their owne Members, might have past without exception. That grand Assertor of the publike *liberty*, who in *civility* gave the King the *title* of a *Soveraigne*, when he kept the *Authority* to himselfe, and confounded the undoubted *Rights* of the *Crowne*, with the never-heard-of *Priviledges* of Parliament, we meane Sir *John Hotham*, (who out of a remorse of conscience, that he had beene the prime instrument of this combustion, or out of an apprehension of an unlikelihood of prevailing, cursed himselfe) moved no lesse then *three* maine *wheeles* at once, to set forward the worke of an *Accommodation*. (Those Letters of his to the Earles of *Northumberland* and *Holland*, and to the *Speaker* of the *House of Commons*, had beene as well worth the peoples reading (if they had had a purpose to let the people see any thing tending to their peace and happinesse) as those from the Earle of *Stamford*, of the totall *defeat* which he had given Sir *Ralph Hopton*; (of the truth of which the Houses have since beene sufficiently informed:) Or those other of the Lord *Faire fax*, interlined with an ordinary *glosse*, and so printed for the *benefit* of the setters forth. But these from Sir *John Hotham* did not speake to the sense of the *Lords and Commons*, that use to sit in *Merchant Taylors Hall* at midnight, and therefore were not fit to be communicated. And if we enquire how they were accepted, we shall finde that they had but little better *welcome* then the Petitions of Peace had to both Houses. Such a *jealousie* is presently raised against him, that though he had committed *Treason* against his King, to become their *faithfull servant*, he begins to

feare he ſhall be ſuffered to play *Rex* no longer, and complaines of it: and many thinke, if they had not more feared their owne then his *periſhing* by *water*, they had caſt him out of his *Arke*, for bringing this Olive branch to them.

As they were averſe to motions of peace themſelves, ſo were they ſtrangely oppoſite to the tendring of ſuch ſupplications to His Majeſtie. Indeed they had reaſon; for (wanting competent evidence to ſpeake for them) they had often commended their owne endeavours for peace, and made us believe that their frequent ſuites found His Majeſties eare inexorable. They were loath this device (which they had improv'd to ſome advantage amongſt the ordinary and leſſe knowing ſort of people, where moſt of their *game* lies) ſhould be diſcovered by any Petitioners perſonall attendance upon His Majeſtie. Hence the Meſſengers that carried the Petition of *Weſtminſter*, *&c.* (though they had obtained a Warrant from the Houſe for their free and ſafe paſſage) were ſurpriſed in the way; and upon ſearch made, ſome *ſcandalous* Pamphlets (as they called them for ſpeaking the truth) which in all probability had been committed to the Coachman, by that *ſetting-Dogge* that diſcovered them; for the buſineſſe was a deepe miſtery, and a very riddle to the Gentlemen: theſe were quickly found, (the ſearchers being preinſtructed in the plot) and ſo the Meſſengers were brought backe againe, that they might not preſent their prayers to His Majeſtie.

But His Majeſties Grace, as it invited all, ſo it found ſupplicants from other parts of the Kingdome, whoſe diſtance from them was their beſt, if not their onely priviledge from interruption and impriſonment: (We ſay nothing of the uſage of the *Hartfordſhire* Petitioners.) And after theſe men perceived that no *art* or *induſtry* could prevent it, but the Court would be frequented with ſollicitations of this nature, as long as it had a gracious *eare*, that tooke ſo much pleaſure to entertaine them; they directed a contrivall of a plauſible *Petition* to be carried to the King in the name of the *Common-Councell*. His Majeſtie (never wanting to any thing that might repaire our unhappy breaches) vouchſafed a *gracious* anſwer; and ſuch as (if it had beene

beene duely followed) had led us the way to very juſt, and no leſſe eaſie termes of Accommodation. But obſerve how careſull theſe men are to worke a good underſtanding betweene the King, and His Subjects: They breake through all the *Liberties and Priviledges* of the Citie (when we ſee the *Rights* of the *Crowne trampled on*, we cannot expect that any *Priviledge* ſhould ſtand before *that* of committing *Treaſon.*) And the people muſt not reade the Kings pleaſure, unleſſe they will put on *Spectacles* of Maſter *Pyms* making; nor heare His Majeſtie ſpeake to them, unleſſe His authenticke *Text* be firſt corrupted by falſe Comments.

Was any *County* willing to be diſ-ingaged, deſirous (becauſe they could not avoid it) to be ſad *Spectators*, rather then wilde *Actors* in this bloudy *Tragedy*. Why ſuch a *neutrality* is voted to be *malignant*, ſuch a peace *deſtructive?* Though *Articles* be concluded, and ratified by their ſubſcriptions, the mutuall pledges of their faith, yet this muſt not *atone* thoſe neighbours, that knew not why, nor wherein they differed. Theſe men can finde Principles in the Schooles of *Jeſuites*, (and ſuch as are no where elſe to be found) that *Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks, with Malignants, and men Popiſhly affected*; (they runne parallel with them a great deale further) and hereupon they uſe thoſe new *Parliamentary* Keyes of their owne making, to reverſe all the *bolts* of theſe engagements, as if they had the ſame power to diſpence with conſciences, which they pretend to have in diſpencing with the Lawes of the Kingdome. Thus thoſe *two* Counties of *Yorke* and *Cheſhire*, when they had ſet *their* hands to the happy *bonds* of peace, and might have *ſate quietly under their owne vines*, were by *Votes*, (and nothing elſe) provoked (like creatures without reaſon) to worry one another. Theſe men that have *ſo much* of the *publike faith*, how *little* would they have of *publike charity?*

Have many Gentlemen put themſelves into a poſture of Warre, and obtained their Commiſſion onely to *ſtalke* by them, that they might the better furniſh themſelves for His Majeſties ſervice, which they aimed at? Have others, not a few, (and

ſome

ſome of their neareſt and deareſt creatures) out of a late ſenſe of the weakneſſe of their *cauſe*, or *party*, or *both*, plaid the Souldiers indeed, and turned *faces about*, with a reſolution and zeale to recompence His Majeſtie by their good ſervice, for the oppoſition which they had too long, but ignorantly made againſt him? Have others (who by the loſſe of a good *foregame*, are taught to play an *after-one*) delivered up thoſe *Commiſſions*, that *inabled* them to fight againſt their owne *honour*, and ſpill all their *noble* bloud? Theſe, though they may prove dangerous *fore runners* of a grand *Apoſtaſie* from the *good worke*, yet we muſt be perſwaded they doe more *animate* unto the cauſe, then diſcourage them. The *worke* is look't upon, as if God himſelfe had actually *cut* it out, and appointed a *ſelect* company, (though never ſo few, if deſperately enough *ſeditious*) by an eſpeciall and immediate deſignation to finiſh it.

Hence thoſe Propoſitions for *Accommodation*, which moſt part of the Kingdome had ſued for; and themſelves (finding a neceſſity in it, to take off that diſlike that began generally to fall upon them) had promiſed ſhould be prepared, were delayed ten or twelve weekes together; and before they are carried, are taught to ſpeake ſuch a language as doth but beg their juſt deniall. To anſwer theſe, His Majeſtie is allowed but ten *dayes*, and (willing to cut the ſufferings of His people as ſhort as He could) He graciouſly diſpatched an anſwer almoſt in as few houres. He offers Propoſitions that a modeſt *Conquerour* would have accounted reaſonable, and yet ſubmits them together with their *owne*, and a *ceſſation* to a *Treaty*. Theſe are brought to the Lords Houſe, and the violent *party* there not able to *hinder* it by *Votes*, indeavour to *intangle* it by *intricacies*. The *hint* is given to the *leading* men of the Houſe of Commons; and inſtead of voting a *Ceſſation* in order to the *Treaty*, they require an abſolute *disbanding* of all forces, and yet no termes of peace concluded on: ſo that the reſult of all would be but this, the King muſt quit His *Martiall* attendants, and reſigne Himſelfe up once againe into the hands of ſeditious Tumults; (for thoſe muſt not be ſpoken againſt) & then they ſhall be prepared for their Treaty. Some were ſo taken with this

piece

piece of Sophiſtry, that they openly boaſted, *They had plaid their game too cunningly for His Majeſty*: Truely a maſterpiece of his *Policie*, whoſe deſignes (if they be not made fruſtrate by a higher power) can finde no period but in utter *ruine*. Some 14 dayes were ſpent upon this *plot*, and yet it was not ripened for His Majeſtie, which occaſioned another gracious Meſſage to prevent all miſtakes, (for His Majeſtie muſt be very punctuall, or elſe He is ſure to be Declared *Traytor*) touching the limits of the Ceſſation; (which, as His Majeſtie was informed, they had at laſt voted.) What fruit all this *ſeed* will bring forth, perhaps the *Spring* may ſhew us; in the meane-while we are in a longing expectation, and muſt needs wonder, that having confined their King to ſo ſhort a time, (which His Majeſtie in compaſſion of the miſeries of His people, made nine parts ſhorter too) themſelves ſhould not be aſhamed to ſpin out their debates, when it lies in them onely (if they were not wanting to their duty, both to King and People) to put a preſent end to our calamities. At laſt (whiles we are penning theſe Obſervations) newes is brought of their *condeſcention* to a *Treaty*, and (to ſhew what *reall* affections they have to peace, or what a plentifull number they have all this while had againſt it) one of the two appointed by the Lords muſt needs be the Lord *Say*, whoſe *long-practiced* principles of *Schiſme* have led him ſo far in the advancement of *Sedition*, that he is deſervedly proſcribed a Traytor by His Majeſtie: ſo that (not able to do more to obſtruct the way to our peace and happineſſe) they have brought the buſineſſe to this *Dilemma*; His Majeſtie muſt either *treat* (and that face to face too) with a grand *Rebell*, (in all probability imployed on purpoſe to give a defeat to the whole *Treaty*) or elſe muſt expect to have the *Odium* of refuſing peace caſt upon Him.

Well! to draw a concluſion from theſe, but too true and too ſad premiſes: If neither the gracious *Meſſages* and *Invitations* of His Majeſtie; nor the ſorrowfull prayers and ſupplications of the diſtreſſed, as well in *England* as *Ireland*; nor the earneſt perſwaſions of their owne diſcouraged, or relenting *party*; nor the frequent *returnes* unto their *allegeance*, of ſuch

as are daily *undeceived* amongſt them: If neither the bleeding miſeries actually ruinating in two Kingdomes at *home*, nor the invited dangers threatning from *abroad*. If none of *theſe* can, or if all *theſe*, with our *Religion*, *Lawes*, *Lives* and *Fortunes*, likely to be buried in the aſhes of this *imminent* deſtruction, cannot prevaile one whit upon *theſe* fierce ſpirits, to ſoften their hard, and (hitherto) unrelenting hearts, and incline them to thoughts of *Peace* and *Accommodation*; what can the inference amount unto leſſe, then what we promiſed to make good in the beginning? *viz.* That the firebrands of this peſtilent faction are in a deſperate travaile for the birth of ſome monſtrous deſigne, which cannot be uſhered into the world but by confuſion. We all know whoſe expreſſion it was, *I hate the name of Accommodation*; and this Spirit of contradiction and diſſention was not raiſed in them, as they raiſed it in the people, by the conjuration of *Plots* and *Conſpiracies*, (under-ground workes, which no body could diſcover but their owne *Artiſts*, that invented them to imbitter the mindes of men againſt His Majeſtie.) But all this was the fruit of that Spirit of contention, which they firſt brought with them to the ſervice (though it had proved the diſervice) of the Kingdome; witneſſe that prodigious *Omen* that long agoe preſaged our approaching ruine. When that potent Gentleman put *Moderation* into the Catalogue of his *vices*, he left us to expect nothing elſe but thoſe bitter fruits of *violence*, which we have ſince too ſufficiently taſted.

Now the ſad accounts of Warre have taught the people the price of Peace; what, doe they oppoſe to ſtop the current of their ſollicitations? 1. They make Speeches in the Houſe, in diſgrace of Peace; and from that *common* ſenſe, a ſenſe muſt be derived unto the whole Kingdome. Till they have ſpilt all the bloud of the *ungodly*, or *malignant*, (as they tearme them) they plead an impoſſibility of enjoying peace with her due *inveſtitures*, as if (becauſe they have begun ſuch a Warre) they could not conclude any other Peace, but what is a ſtranger unto *truth* and *righteouſneſſe*. The Lord *Brookes* and others have made great uſe of their *talents* this way, to their great honour

amongſt

amongſt the *brethren* of the *Separation*. When theſe prevailed to thruſt peace out of the Houſes, there was another plot to cut the *throat* of *it* in the Citie. A multitude (as they had found by long experience) is good at a *dead* lift; and if they be ſet upon't, to have all matters tryed by *club* law, there is no appealing from them. Well! ſuch *forces* muſt be levied as offer up their prayers unto both Houſes by an implicite faith in a language they underſtand not, thinking any thing a bleſſing that ſuch a *heavenly* man as Doctor *Burgeſſe* invites them to petition for, and ſo poore *fooles* are earneſt ſuitors to be wedded to the miſeries of a *civill* warre, from which other *Nations* long to be redeemed. If *ſhame*, or *diſcretion*, or *conſcience* makes men backward to this helliſh deſigne, then the *Pulpit* muſt be turn'd into a Mount *Ebal*, from whence the *Emiſſaries* of the Houſe of Commons *curſe* them. Leſt ſedition ſhould not *thrive* faſt enough, they ſuborne theſe Preachers, and obtrude them upon (almoſt) every Pariſh, to ſow the ſeeds thicker; and theſe men, though not of ſo long a ſtanding, have improved their ſtocke of *impudence* beyond the Devill himſelfe. He came whiles the *ſervants* ſlept, but theſe diſperſe their *tares* in the field whiles *they* looke upon them. Theſe are the *Bellowes* to this fire, the *Trumpets* to this warre, that boggle not at blaſphemy, to perſwade the people that God is ingaged in their *conſpiracy* againſt his *Anointed*; and to this end their prayers are of a more *ſanguine* complexion, then *Eſaus* pottage. Theſe are they that have taken this advantage of ſtirring up the people to ſpoile and *rapine*, that they may (this way) root out a regular Miniſtry, and be planted in their places: Inſomuch as one of them tells us in his *Plaine Engliſh*, *He hath a great deale of reaſon to be confident, that ſcarce any conſiderable man* (he ſpeakes of the Clergy) *who hath beene ingaged in this quarrell on the Parliament part, if he retaines his integrity*, (he ſhould have changed that word for ſedition) *dares abide the iſſue of a preſent Accommodation*. Certainly there can be nothing but their owne *guilt* that ſhould move them to diſtruſt the protection of that *Law* which they have beene bred and borne to. Theſe men can have no fiſhing but in *troubled* wa-

ters, and therefore when they have done ſweating in the perſecution of *Peace* in the Pulpit, they aſſault her in the Preſſe; and in both they have a great advantage: for they wreſtle at liberty, whiles the Champions of *Peace* have their hands tyed behind them. They ſpeake *plaine Engliſh*, whiles the other have their tongues clipt; or if they ſpeake out, are impriſoned: So that *Peace* is firſt awed into *ſilence*, and then by theſe men preſt to death, becauſe ſhe doth not plead to her endightment. Theſe are the inſtruments ſo deſtructive to our peace, ſo induſtrious in fomenting this execrable Warre. Theſe are the very *Becons*, that (being ſet on fire themſelves) with their prodigious *blazes* have raiſed ſo many Countries in *Armes*, to their owne ruine. Theſe are the grand *Projectors* to raiſe men and money, making their Miniſtry but a Pander to Rebellion. Their ſtratagems have beene to awaken them by ſounding this Alarm in their eares: That Gods cauſe, the Proteſtant Religion, Lawes, Liberties, Properties, Priviledges of Parliament, yea their lives, with the lives of their deare wives and children, ly all at the ſtake. They went a ſtep higher in the beginning, perſwading them they were to fight for the defence of the Kings Rights, and to reſcue His Sacred Perſon from the hands of the *Cavaliers*; (ſo in a diſgrace they termed His Majeſties Illuſtrious Nephewes, with the chiefe Nobility and Gentry of the Kingdome) who (as they ſaid) had ſurprized Him.

When they were ſupplyed with men, (animated by theſe devices) what courſe did they leave unattempted to raiſe money to maintaine them? Under the name of the *publike faith* (a cheſt that is bottomleſſe and inſatiable) they have erected a new *lotterie*; (to cheat our *faith*, and begger the *publike*.) From hence the adventurers were ſure to carry away nothing but *blankes*, the *prizes* being deſigned for themſelves, and the Officers that were neare them; ſome of which are not aſhamed to ſound the Trumpet for it. When the free Contributions were exhauſted from *Voluntiers*, men came to be preſt to theſe prodigall expences. After they had *lent* ſome, they were juſtly paid the *uſe* by having the reſt *taken* from them. Men were

not

not onely forced to part with their *owne*, but to disburſe *others* money alſo, or committed to priſon for their refuſall. This was *Langherne* and *Vivians* caſe, who were committed to *Colcheſter* Gaole, for denying to pay 2000l, which was due to the *Prince* from them, and yet the Receiver plundered of the money. Theſe men are no leſſe carefull for the maintenance of the Kings children then of His Majeſtie, provided it may be done by taking away their Revenues; and thus all the *Rights* as well of King as People, have beene ſecured by an *Antiphraſis* of Parliament. When the Merchants were in diſpute about the lading of the Ship called *Sancta Clara*, theſe charitable men (that love no ſtrife betweene brethren) umpir'd in the buſineſſe, and to reconcile the difference, ſeized upon the goods, which muſt not be redeemed to the uſe of the right owner, under the loane of 20000l. I pray God they have not this trick to comprimiſe all the differences of the Kingdome. To raiſe money they have robbed both the Church and the Spittle, ſix thouſand pounds being collected for the repairing of S. *Andrewes Holborne*, were fetcht away by the Earle of *Mancheſter* and others, in the night. If this Church fall, they have ingagad themſelves to build God a new houſe in bloud. We reade of *Hezekiah*, that he gave all the *ſilver* that was found in the houſe of the Lord to make his peace with a forreigne and idolatrous King: but for ſubjects to take Gods money to wage Warre againſt a pious Prince, we beleeve this may be made one of the firſt precedents; They have not beene more favourable to the *myſticall*, then to the *materiall* Temples of God. A great collection was made for the reliefe of the poore Proteſtants in *London Derry*, and (beſides thoſe vaſt ſummes raiſed by Subſidie for the Armies there) this was all converted to the uſe of this bloudy War, whileſt thoſe our miſerable brethren are ready to periſh (as many that went before them) in their diſtreſſes. To recompence them for this wrong, they have imployed their Preachers to advance another collection for them; which comming into the ſame hands, we ſuſpect will be conveighed the ſame way. They tooke like care for the diſpoſall of that collection made for *Brainceford*, for the poore of the

Pariſh have not beene a farthing the better for it hitherto, and we beleeve the Spring will have ſo well *recovered* them, that their Phyſitians will thinke it needleſſe to *adminiſter* what was ſo long agoe *provided* for them. Whether theſe men, that would have no ſumme paſſe by their owne *bagge*, care more to relieve the *poore* then *Judas* did, may appeare by diverſe *inſtances*: amongſt the reſt they brake into the Hoſpitall at *Gilford* in *Surrey*, and tooke 400l from them: and a fine device was lately ſet on foot to raiſe another ſumme. There is a pretence for poore children to be ſent over to get good *breeding* in *New England*, a collection muſt be made for them, and this muſt be committed to the hands of their *truſty* and *wel-beloved* Alderman *Pennington*, which is like to be imployed to the uſe for which it was pretended, as faithfully as thoſe ſummes gathered for *London Derry* and *Brainceford* were.

Now, leſt the peoples zeale ſhould waſt with their purſes, they keepe them warme by a continuall breathing of reports upon them. If Letters come that ſpeake but upon heare-ſay, they firſt expunge ſo much of the relation as might tend to the diſcouraging of their party, and then publiſh them as the Hiſtory of ſome great defeat; and (if need be, as there is need enough) they have their *Obſervatour* to write *Commentaries* upon them, leſt the people ſhould miſtake the rare paſſages of Gods providence on their ſide. Another while they declaime againſt the Kings Army as *Popiſh*, (forgetting that their *good worke* is ſupported by men of any Nation or Religion; and that the Lord *Say* and the Lord *Brookes*, two leading Cards of that faction, have often proteſted they would diſpence with all ſorts of Religions, (though now they make an exception of the true Proteſtant) ſo they might exerciſe their owne freely; and that ſuch a generall Toleration ought to be granted is their avowed opinion; and indeed, their *independency* cannot conſiſt otherwiſe: for if I be accountable to none, I will uſe what Religion I pleaſe, without controule.) It hath been well obſerved, that when there hath beene any buſineſſe of conſequence to be debated in the Houſes, they have ſtill had the good fortune to be encouraged by the newes of ſome ſtrange

ſucceſſe,

ſucceſſe, or exaſperated by ſome great provocation, ſuggeſted by ſuch as made the diſcovery for advantage: But they have beene ſo provident as to lay reports of this nature at a conſiderable diſtance, that they might not be confuted before the preſent turne were ſerved. Thus wee were made believe, whileſt His Majeſties Army was in *Yorkeſhire*, and in thoſe remote parts, that they conſiſted of none but *Papiſts* and *Delinquents*; but this miſt caſt before the peoples eyes to blinde them, was ſoone diſpelled by the rayes of our Soveraignes pietie, as He drew neare us. And however the Earle of *Newcaſtles* Forces lie all under the ſame ſcandall now, yet as great a cloud as this hath vaniſh'd into nothing; and 'tis poſſible they may draw ſo neare us, that (notwithſtanding their duty and allegeance have brought ſome *Papiſts* into that Army) we may diſtinctly underſtand, that the *Maſſe*, which they ſay is ſo commonly uſed, will prove no other then the *Booke of Common-Prayer*.

With theſe jugling and ſleight-of-hand trickes wee have beene long amazed, but they have beene plaid ſo often over, that every man who is not willfully blinde diſcovers them; and now they ſerve for no uſe but for wiſe men to lament, and boyes to laugh at; we may juſtly wonder what *ſprings* they move by, that drive them on ſo furiouſly againſt the ſtreame of truth, law, and reaſon: and yet we may ceaſe to wonder, for we have beene ſufficiently informed, that ſome of this violent party are ſpurr'd on by the law of their owne *neceſſities*. A Captaines pay *per annum* is more money then five of their prime *Inſtruments* were ever owners of. The *Honeſt Letter* hath told us on which ſide the beggerly Lords and Gentlemen are of; and 'tis eaſily concluded, if we conſider who they are that take the preſent pay out of a publike ſtocke, whileſt their *Cure* is ſerved by their under-officers, and who they are that ſerve in their owne perſons; and beſides the hazard of their reſidence raiſe and maintaines Forces at their owne charges. Others we know purſue this deſigne out of an inveterate malice unto Majeſtie. It was an expreſſion of but little loyaltie, (and not the further from truth becauſe uttered in a Taverne) that

that *They would make the King as poore as* Job, *unleſſe he did comply with them.* That Champion that wreſtled ſo ſtoutly with his Soveraigne at Law, in the caſe of *Ship-money*, might have come off with honour, if he had ſtaid there: But ſeeing him (after ſatisfaction) one of the firſt in the field, deſperately provoking His Majeſtie to the ſharpe, we ſuſpect malice, though we hope he will be deceived in the length of the Kings weapon, and ſo periſh by it. Others know and have proteſted the King cannot in honour *pardon* them; and if they ſhould ſubmit to the Law, they are too ſure that would prove a *killing* letter to them, and therefore they dare not abide the iſſue of an *Accommodation.* Others having transformed themſelves into Angels of *light*, poſſeſt the people, that they were of a nearer communion, even of the Cabinet-Councell with God himſelfe, and broached their *illuſions* for divine *Revelations.* Theſe men could ſee, that God had plainly chalked out a way in his holy Word, which our fore-fathers for 1500 yeares together could never ſee: That Jeſus Chriſt had ſate all this while beſides his *Throne*, and they muſt diſpoſſeſſe *Antichriſt* (whoſe ſpirit and manner of working by lying wonders &c, they are very well acquainted with) before our Saviours government can be eſtabliſhed. Theſe men being canoniz'd for Saints by the ignorant multitude, (that underſtand not the depth of *Satans* deluſions) thinke it too great a diſgrace to be *ſtigmatized* with an ignominious death for Sedition, which they know they are by Law guilty of.

Thoſe men that began the Warre upon ſuch unwarrantable grounds, and have purſued it to the murdering of ſo many thouſands, will undoubtedly drive it (if it be poſſible) to the laſt pinch; For although, we hope, they ſhall never compriſe differences to their owne perſonall ſafety and preferment, and our irrevocable ſlavery, as one of their *Clerkes* (in his frivolous paper) ſaith they may doe; yet they will drive it on as long as they have any hopes to get ſo great a *pawne* into their hands, as ſhall inable them to make their owne conditions. If this faile, having ſhipt away ſo much of the *Treaſury* of the Kingdome as may make them conſiderable and welcome gueſts

to

to *New-England*, or ſuch other places, they care not how miſerable they make this Land before they leave it. And here by the way we could wiſh, that our owne money (that was ordered to be tranſported in *Trunkes* without ſearching) might not be brought backe to buy our goods withall; for our ſtocke being plundered by them, if they may have the liberty (as they take liberty to doe any thing) to prize it for themſelves, we may preſume they will affoord good penny-worths, and never leave us till they have removed both the *Exchanges*, with the Kings *Exchequer* and the *Chamber* of *London*, into the Earle of *Warwickes* new Liberties. 'Tis time to looke about us, for we are to play our *game* with the greateſt *Cheaters* in *Chriſtendome*, who thinke they have as good a Warrant to ſpoile ſuch as they have call'd *Malignant*, (for no other reaſon then their loyalty) as ever *Iſrael* had to ſpoile the *Egyptians*.

Let us no longer ſuffer our ſelves to be abuſed, and miſled by thoſe falſe lights which they have hung out to deceive us. Do not all their practices runne *counter* to their pretences? Do we not perceive them looke one way, and ſteere the contrary? Let us learne to know their *aimes*, not by their *words*, but by their *actions*. If we *trace* them through all their *proceedings*, we ſhall finde they have given the *lie* to every particular *pretence*, though never ſo ſpeciouſly alleadged for their juſtification in this Warre.

What was more cried up then the defence of the true *Proteſtant* Religion? This was the very *ſhield* and *buckler* of their *Army*. This is made the *Generaliſſimo* of all their Arguments, and marcheth in the *front* of all the battaile. If this were not at the ſtake, moſt men conclude the Warre abſolutely *unlawfull*. But how a quarrell can be *juſtly* made to defend a Religion, that condemnes ſuch a *quarrell* and ſuch a *defence*, (as the true *Proteſtant* Religion doth) I profeſſe I underſtand not. If our Religion did runne an apparent hazard, I am confident this ſcandalous and offenſive defence cannot be juſtified, but by ſuch *Jeſuiticall* principles, as all the Schooles of *Proteſtants* (except the *Scots*, and not all of them neither, for the Miniſters of *Aberden* have declared themſelves clearly and ſolidly of this

opinion in their *Duplies*) have unanimouſly exploded. But we have ſufficient grounds of ſuſpicion, that the Religion which is ſo barbarouſly militant in a *Buffe-coat*, is not the ſame Religion which was peaceably obedient in a *Surplice*. Wee reade in *Plaine Engliſh* of hopes they have, not onely of reforming, that is, rooting out our *Diſcipline*, but alſo of purging our *Doctrine*; notwithſtanding they have bound themſelves by a ſolemne Proteſtation, (if any ſuch thing can binde them, for they have done as much for the Kings Perſon, Rights, and Dignity) to maintaine it. We had thought they would have made their new *experiments* onely upon our old Government; but it ſeemes that wiſe *Colledge* of State-Phyſicians thinke it fit to make the *Doctrine* of our Church their *Patient*, and we are afraid they will let too much bloud there too; and their purge (if they be ſuffered to adminiſter) will be ſtrong enough to overthrow it. Well! whether the maintenance of the true *Proteſtant* Religion be the Argument of this ſword-diſpute, may be decided by a ſpeedy triall: Let them reduce the *Fabricke* of our Religion according to the *Model* of Q. *Elizabeths* time, in which thoſe foundations were laid, which made the Church of *England* the moſt eminent and glorious of all *Proteſtant* Churches: If His Majeſtie conſents not to all this, and to ſomething more (upon the advice of a grave and learned *Synod*) for the ſatisfaction of tender conſciences, but recedeth from His many free and gracious offers to that purpoſe, then let thoſe bitter and ſcandalous imputations of inclining unto *Popery* be never waſht away from Him. But if this be one of the maine Arguments of His Majeſties taking up juſt, neceſſary, and defenſive Armes againſt *Anabaptiſts*, *Browniſts*, and *Sectaries*, who have already throwne downe the *hedge*, and now fall to pillaging of the *grapes* of the Lords *Vineyard*, and that with countenance and encouragement from a party in both Houſes; then we may conclude we approach very faſt unto *Atheiſme* and *Prophaneneſſe*, and are fallen into thoſe times which Sir *Walter Rawleigh* ſpeakes of in his Hiſtory of the World, *B.* 2. *Ch.* 5. §. 1. ſpeaking of the care that *Moſes* had of all things that concerned the worſhip and ſervice

vice of God; which care of his all ages have in ſome degree imitated: *Yet* (ſayes he, and we may ſay ſo more truly) *it is now ſo forgotten, and caſt away in this ſuper fine age, by thoſe of the Family; By the* Anabaptiſts, Browniſts, *and other* Sectaries, *as all coſt and care beſtowed and had of the Church, wherein God is to be ſerved and worſhipped, is accounted a kinde of Popery, and as proceeeding from an Idolatrous diſpoſition; inſomuch as time would ſoone bring to paſſe (if it were not reſiſted) that God would be turned out of Churches into Barnes, and from thence againe into the Fields and Mountaines, and under the Hedges; and the offices of the Miniſters (robb'd of all dignity and reſpect) be as contemptible, as theſe places: All Order, Diſcipline, and Church Government, left to newneſſe of opinion, and mens fancies: yea, and ſoone after, as many kindes of Religion would ſpring up, as there are Pariſh Churches within* England: *Every contentious and ignorant perſon clothing his fancy with the Spirit of God, and his imagination with the gift of Revelation; inſomuch, as when the Truth, which is but one, ſhall appeare to the ſimple multitude, no leſſe variable then contrary to it ſelfe, the faith of men will ſoone after die away by degrees, and all Religion held in ſcorne and contempt.* Doth not this directly hit the temper of our times, wherein the conformable miniſtry is generally diſcountenanced, ignorant and ſeditious perſons, men of all qualities and profeſſions, ſet up like *Jeroboams* Calves to out-face them? Wherein all ſorts of *Conventicles* (forbidden by Law) are tolerated and frequented by thoſe that ought to puniſh them: wherein men will take upon them to be *Magiſtrates*, and declaime againſt the publike worſhip and ſervice of God, as it hath ſtood ever ſince the Reformation in the Church of *England*, and ſhut up the doores of the *Mother-Church*, (if it be lawfull to uſe any name of reverence and authority, beſides the name of a *Parliament*) that the ſolemne ſervice of God may not be adminiſtred, as it hath beene, for a preſident to other Churches: wherein men are impriſoned and cannot be inlarged, unleſſe they will promiſe to forbeare the uſe of the *Common-Prayer*, the *Croſſe* in *Baptiſme*, and *kneeling* at the holy *Communion*: wherein the holy Apoſtles of our Saviour

are unſainted, as if we now doubted of their ſalvation: all this, and more then this, can be proved againſt Alderman *Pennington*. If we looke into the Houſe, leſt their Members ſhould not be infected faſt enough with this peſtilent *diſeaſe*, the Preachers of their chooſing were for the moſt part notorious, ſchiſmaticall *Separatiſts*. And for the *Synod* (of their owne ſetting forth, after a new tranſlation) for feare the Clergy ſhould have ſent men that were too orthodoxall, they deprived them of their rights, (forgetting their Proteſtation, or taking them to be none of the Subjects intended in it) and made choice of as many men as they could get, under no remarkable *character*, but for their ignorant *novelty*, and factious *ſingularity* of opinion. If we look upon the men they moſt confide in, we ſhall finde them of the ſame ſtampe, or elſe their priſoners muſt not be committed to them. Doctor *Layton* an old *Scottiſh* Preacher, ſtigmatized long ſince for Sedition, Gaoler at *Lambeth Houſe*. *Dillingham* a notorious Browniſt, with his wife and family, Gaoler at *London-Houſe*. *Deviniſh* the Keeper, and *Randall* the Porter, both *Conventicle-Preachers*, at *Wincheſter-Houſe*: and the Porter at *Ely-Houſe* can deliver as much extemporary Sedition as the beſt of them. If we look into their Army, we ſhall finde their intemperate zeale (not without encouragement from ſome great ones) hath tranſported them, not onely to the prophanation of Churches, defacing of Monuments, tearing of holy Bookes, and decent Veſtments, but even to the murdering of the true ſonnes of the Church for joyning in her devotions, as the late example at *Lambeth* evidenceth.

We ſee then what is done for the defence of the true *Proteſtant* Religion, as it ſtands reformed and eſtabliſht in the Church of *England*. This Religion is pretended, but another is practiced; and in order to this *new* one, (for the old hath conſiſted with the old government) *Epiſcopacy* muſt be rooted out: and to this end, they have uſed the moſt Reverend *Biſhops*, (for no other crime then for being of that function) as whilome the enemies of the Goſpell did the holy Martyrs of *Jeſus Chriſt*, when they clothed them in the skins of wilde beaſts,

to

to animate the dogges to teare them: ſo the Fathers of the Church have beene ſet forth under the moſt ſcandalous and ignominious character, to inrage the people againſt them. And, although they are as farre from diſcovering, as from agreeing what they would have in the roome of it, yet this muſt downe, that's concluded; and though a *Synod* be deſired, as the moſt competent Judge of ſuch Controverſies, yet this is to be convened onely for colour ſake; the worke muſt be *done*, or rather *undone*, before they be conſulted with, or aſſembled. We may expoſtulate, though they will not allow their *Votes*, how unreaſonable ſoever, to be diſputed. How came *Epiſcopacy*, that hath ſtood ſo long a *piller* in the Houſe of God, to grow ſo diametrically oppoſite to the truth or peace of the Goſpell? Was not our Religion reformed under that Government, and hath not our Church and State flouriſh't (to the envy of our neighbours) under it? If ſome *tares* have ſprung up under it, have they not ſprung up much faſter, and ſpread further under other formes of Government beyond the Seas? If inconveniences have crept in through that *wall*, which, if not of *Chriſts* owne, is doubtleſſe of his *Apoſtles* building: much more through thoſe low *hedges* of their ſetting up, who have no grounds beſides their owne fancies to plant them on. There is a neceſſity of emerging *offences*, and *tares* will grow amongſt the *Wheat* untill the Harveſt, or elſe our Saviour hath deceived us. His wiſedome ſees, that the very chaffe may contribute ſomething to the benefit of the good *graine* in this life, and therefore hath reſerved the thorow-purging of his *floore* till his owne comming unto Judgement. A little breaking in of the *ſalt* waters makes our fields more fruitfull: Our chiefe care muſt be to keepe out *Inundations*, and the way to do that is to keepe the bankes up, and to keepe them ſound, not to *levell* them.

The Houſes did once thinke it convenient to declare by *Votes* (which we ſee *religiouſly* obſerv'd in other things) that they intended the aboliſhing, neither of the *Liturgy*, nor of the *Church-Government*: And truely if wee perceive *Votes* (which have preſum'd to challenge ſo much reſpect and veneration from us) created onely to ſerve turnes upon occaſion,

and carried *Pro* and *Con*, as emergent advantages are administred, they will presently loose their reputation (amongst us) of being infallible, and give us hopes, that upon the more mature deliberation of second thoughts, at least all groundlesse *Votes*, apparently and experimentally destructive to the Kingdome, shall be recalled. And for the Government of the Church (being purg'd of some abuses) we professe we like the Preachers advice so well, and have found their *principles* so pestilent, that we would not willingly meddle with them that are given to *change*, unlesse we can see better Arguments produced (though this last of the sword hath beene the strongest) to move us. We are of their opinion, that having dranke *old* Wine, cannot desire *new*, for they know the *old* is better. And it is not an idle observation, that since they fell from *pruning* to *rooting* up, their endeavours have beene almost miraculously blasted, by an immediate and remarkeable curse upon them.

If there be any that thinkes this order in the Church is not worth the strife about it, and that our Religion may consist without it, let them with a sad and serious heart ponder these Considerations. 1. That instead of these, by the *independent* way, a Pope, and however, a Bishop will be set up in every Parish. 2. That there was no other Government (though perhaps some other qualifications in it) heard of in the Church of God, till about 100 yeares since, insomuch as some (of no small note for learning and piety) stand in great doubt, whether there can be any lawfull *Ordination*, and consequently any lawfull *Ministry* without it. These (who make up a farre more considerable party in this Church, then those who have already seperated, and therefore ought in the first place by all the rules of Christian charity, to have their scruples satisfied) upon the *rooting* out of this *Ancient* Governement, must needs abandon our Communion. 3. That the true *Protestant* Religion establisht in the Church of *England*, was never so much undermin'd and blemisht whilest some of the Bishops *slept*; and others were too *active*, as it hath beene by new sprung up *Sects*, and *monstrous* opinions, since their office was suspended.

4. That

4. That the next *Orders* like to be quarrel'd at (if it be not too evident they are quarrel'd at already) will be the *Nobility* and the *Gentry*; and if we ſhould allow the argument againſt the *Order* of Biſhops, that the *Proteſtant* Religion, and the generall ſafety of the Kingdome may conſiſt without them: may not the ſame argument with as good reaſon be taken up againſt the other by the meaner ſort of people (who ſhall have hopes to ſhare their eſtates amongſt them) till all degrees be levelled? Laſtly, That the argument of the diſpute is not ſo much, whether Biſhops, or no Biſhops; as whether a King, or no King: for we muſt hold the *negative*, if Subjects may be allowed by force of Armes (when they cannot get the Kings conſent) to pull downe any piece of his ſetled Governement.

With the Fathers they pretend to thruſt out the Children, and thoſe are commonly deciphered under the notion of *ſcandalous* Miniſters. The truth is, it were well for the Church of God, if all that were ſuch were thruſt out of her boſome: But they have ſtretcht the Word to ſuch a latitude, that if they ſhould goe on, there would ſcarce be found an orthodox man in the Kingdome out of this *Catalogue*. For there are a company of *ſcorners* and *terrible ones*, *That watch for iniquity*, *that make a man an offender for a word, and lay a ſnare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turne aſide the juſt for a thing of nought*: *Iſay* 29. 20,21. Is he loyall according to the obligation of diverſe oathes ſundry times repeated by him? He is a ſcandalous Miniſter. Is he a man well affected to the preſent Governement &c, or to peace? he is a dangerous man, and ſcandalous. In the *interim* they ſet up their railing *Rabſhechaes*, that *blaſpheme* God, and *ſlander* the footſteps of his Annointed in ſuch ſort, as their Prayers and Preaching are a very ſcandall, (except enmities, ſeditions, reviling of Gods Ordinances and Miniſters, when practiced by them, with the countenance of a party in both Houſes ceaſe to be workes of the fleſh.) If we ſhould forme compariſons, wee ſhould finde *moates* in ſome mens eyes, made greater by the multiplying-glaſſe of malice, (which they make too much uſe of) then the *beames*, that are moſt conſpicuous in the eyes of others. In

ſome

ſome men they perſecute their humane frailties and indiſcretions, whileſt they protect others, whoſe offences are died in *graine*. Maſter *Pigott* (amongſt other ſuch like *Articles*) was accuſed by ſome few ſeditious men of the Pariſh of S. *Sepulchres*, for drinking a Beere-glaſſe of *White-wine*, with a *Lemmon* and *Sugar*; and though vindicated by the teſtimony of 600 of the ableſt men, had his reputation blaſted (with no credit to his witneſſes) by Maſter *Corbet*, who ſate then in the chaire of *Examinations*, (I had like to have called it the ſeat of the ſcornefull) and gave his hand afterwards that he was unworthy to exerciſe his Miniſtry, by which meanes he hath ſince beene put by two *Lectures*, at *Alhallowes Berking*, and *Broad-ſtreet*. I make no queſtion they have met with ſome ſcandalous enough: I doe not excuſe them. But others they have proſecuted, whom they might with much more honour have acquitted, and given a checke to their too officious and troubleſome neighbours. Looke we upon ſuch as are in moſt favour and eſteeme with them, we ſhall finde they have trode their ſhooes *awry*, as well as others. We may ſet Doctor *Burgeſſe* in the *front*, and becauſe he was ſo *buſie* to pick holes in the coates of his *brethren*, and rak't up the very *aſhes* of the dead to diſcover their corruptions, we ſhall be the bolder to remember him, not onely of a man that was a *Pluraliſt*, but of one that the *High-Commiſſion* look't upon for *Adultery*; and of one that with continuall *ſuites* of Law vext two Pariſhes, and muſt have beene *calculated* in the *blacke-bill*, if he had not taken himſelfe off by his good ſervice againſt Biſhops. Doctor *Downing* a reputed *weather-cocke*, that turnes which way ſoever the winde of his owne humour, or ambition blowes him; ſometimes a great *ſuitor* to be the Earle of *Straffords* Chaplain, thinking that the readieſt way to a *Biſhopricke*; and whileſt he had hopes of the preferment, writ ſtoutly in juſtification of that *calling*. Maſter *Calamy*, another great *Evangeliſt* of the *new* way, ſometimes complyed with Biſhop *Wren*, preach't frequently in his *Surplice* and *Hood*, read Prayers at the *Railes*, bowed at the name of *Jeſus*, and undertooke to ſatisfie and to reduce ſuch as *ſcrupled* at theſe *Ceremonies*, inſomuch as

the

the Earle of *Warwicke* ſaid, *He would be loſt if he were not taken off*, and ſo removed him to a Living in *Eſſex*. This was all the *Phyſicke* that was given him, to *purge* him from that which he now ſtiles *Superſtition*, though it was never ſo before he left it. Maſter *Harding* another great *Apoſtle* for that *way*, if he had not ſecured himſelfe by complying with that *faction*, had beene complained of for his *vicious* life, being a notorious fornicator, often taken by the *Watch* in a diſguiſe with *Harlots*; and ſince he ingaged himſelfe for the *good* worke, attempted a rape upon a *Vintners* wife in *Southwarke*; yet he hath made up all theſe *breaches* in his life, by making a greater in the Church. Maſter *Bridge* of *Norwich* being called to an account by the Biſhop (as we are credibly informed) for keeping another mans *wife*, left his *Cure*, and then pretended he was *driven* away, becauſe he would not ſubmit to *Innovations*. Maſter *Goodwin* of *Coleman-ſtreet* in great eſteeme amongſt ſome of them, yet (let him ſpin his opinion into never ſo fine a thred) a *Socinian*. Maſter *John Sedgewicke* of *London-wall*, a *ſimoniacke* and *perjur'd*, both upon *Record*. And every one hath heard of that light and prophane ſpeech of Mr *Evans*, that he did *breake* the poore womens hearts with preaching of damnation, and carried the *pieces* in his pocket. And (if we may touch the *apple* of their eye) we have heard (for our eyes are not every where to ſee them) that Maſter *Marſhall* hath a powerfull faculty of perſwaſion with the weaker *ſex*, (and all *ſeducers* after their *old* maſter goe that way) to draw the affections, and then the eſtates from brothers children unto his owne. By theſe *inſtances* it is evident, that notwithſtanding their zeale for a *thorow* reformation, they can diſpenſe with *offences*, aſwell in the *Clergy* as in the *Laity*, if they will become ſerviceable unto the preſent *deſigne*.

Another thing pretended to be reformed in the *Church*, was *Pluralities* and *Non-reſidence*; and this was not ſo much, becauſe they thought theſe things unlawfull, as to make roome for their owne *Emiſſaries*. Who would thinke that men, who have *voted* it a thing unlawfull and unconſcionable to hold *two* Livings, or but *one* and not *reſide* upon it, ſhould practice

it themſelves. Nothing hath beene cry'd downe more by divers *Lords* and *Commons*, ſince the ſitting of this *Parliament*, and yet we finde many late *examples* of their owne making. Maſter *Goodricke* of little *Houghton* hath beene taken from his *reſidence* at his Cure, and made Lecturer at *Tottenham*, by the meanes of Sir *Edward Barkeham* and Maſter *Stroude*. Maſter *Theodor Graves* Parſon of great *Linford*, in the County of *Bucks*, made *non-reſident* by an *Order* of Parliament. Maſter *George Hartford* of *Stutsbury*, in the Dioceſſe of *Peterborough*, made Vicar of *Banbury* by the Lord *Say*; it ſeemes his *Lordſhip* can diſpenſe with a double *Beneſice* in his owne Chaplains. Doctor *Wincop* (whoſe new preferment hath made him forget ſome of his old principles) though he had the *fleece* of a good flocke before, the Houſe of Commons hath given him *Inſtitution* and *Induction* into Doctor *Brayes* Living, S. *Martines* in the fields; but whether they can *vote* him into the *profits*, as they have done into the *paines*, is doubtfull. Many other *Pluraliſts* have beene made this *Parliament*, (and ſome ſince the Bill was drawne up againſt them.) Maſter *Henry Trewman*, Rector of *Cromwell* and *Newarke*, by the Earle of *Clare*. Maſter *Tho: Caril* of *Slyndon* and *Harting*, by the Lord *Saint-Johns*. Maſter *John Dixon* of *Glenfold* and *Baynes*, by the Lord *Haſtings*. Who can thinke that theſe men were in *earneſt*, and not rather upon *deſigne*, when they cry'd out ſo bitterly againſt *Pluralities*? We would faine know what gift of *Vbiquity* hath been *voted* into Maſter *Marſhall*, that he ſhould be able to officiate at S. *Margaret Weſtminſter*, *Windſor*, or any where, and yet not neglect his Cure at *Finchingfield* in *Eſſex*.

Another thing pretended for the *advancement* of Religion, was the eſtabliſhing of a *Preaching* Miniſtry throughout the Kingdome. Certainly a very *pious* worke, if *Orthodox* men be planted in all *Pariſhes*: But if ſuch be rooted out as are of *ableſt* parts to inſtruct, and men of *deſperate* principles and *factious* ſpirits thruſt into their places; this (as by too woefull an experience is now made evident) will prove deſtructive both to *Church* and *Common-wealth*. Yet this is the *great* worke

for

E.422

for which way muſt be made (ſaith the Author of *Plaine Engliſh*) *by diſplacing idle, ſcandalous, ſuperſtitious, ignorant perſons*: And how muſt theſe be diſplaced? Why ſaith he, *If this advantage againſt them of ſtirring up the people to ſpoile and rapine were taken, it were a good likely meanes* (very warrantable and honeſt meanes ſurely, according to *Wat Tylers* and *Jacke Strawes* Doctrine) *of rooting out them who had ſhuffled their Cards ſo cunningly, as to be out of the reach of the Law in other reſpects.* This puts me in minde of that which Colonell *Cromwell* ſaid to Maſter *Gatford* at *Cambridge*, (when he tooke away his *booke* out of the Preſſe, for ſpeaking for obedience unto *Magiſtrates*, againſt the *Anabaptiſts*:) He told him he had beene a great *oppoſer* of the Archbiſhops *Innovations*, but carried himſelfe ſo *cunningly*, that the *Law* could not lay hold upon him, and ſo (he told him) he had behaved himſelfe now; (in oppoſition to the *Anabaptiſts*) but though the *Law* could not lay hold upon him, they had a *power* could reach him; and this was the *power* of the *Dragoneers*, which brought him up a Priſoner forthwith to *Ely-Houſe*. The truth is, what ever they ſay, their aime is not ſo much at the *idle* and *ignorant*, for the one *winkes* at all their *falſe* and *odious* principles, and the other *concur* with them in the practice of *them*. Their chiefe envy is at the moſt learned and moſt painfull Preachers (if they keepe not ſilence at their faction.) Why is the Lord Primate of *Ireland*, Biſhop *Morton*, Biſhop *Hall*, Biſhop *Prideaux*, Biſhop *Brownrigg*, Doctor *Holdſworth*, Doctor *Featly*, Maſter *Shute*, and others of *ſingular* learning and piety, under a *cloud* with them, and ſome of them *ordered* to be impriſoned? Why are ſo many Priſons full of men that are Preachers, as well by their *Examples* as their *Sermons*? Maſter *Squire*, Maſter *Stone*, Maſter *Swadlin*, that are ſcarce allowed *ſtraw* to lie on, (whileſt His Majeſtie is exclaim'd againſt, when he affords *Rebels* better uſage.) Maſter *Reading* of *Dover*, Maſter *Griffith* of *London*, Maſter *Ingoldsby* of *Watton* in *Hartfordſhire*, Maſter *Wilcockes* of *Goudhurſt* in *Kent*. Theſe, and many others, having done nothing worthy of *death*, or of *bonds*, are inſerted into the *blacke* bill of *ſcandalous* and *ſuperſtitious* Miniſters, for

 preach-

preaching nothing but *obedience* to *Soveraigne* Authority, and *points* consonant to the *Holy Scriptures*, and the *Doctrine of the Church of England*, as it ſtands eſtabliſhed by *Act* of Parliament. I confeſſe Maſter *Ingoldsby* aggravated his *crime* of preaching for obedience, by ſetting forth the Doctrine of our Church (in ſix *Homilies* eſtabliſh't by Parliament, for the uſe of every *Pariſh*) againſt *Rebellion*, and the oathes of *Supremacy* and *Allegeance*, with the *Proteſtation*, and an *Epiſtle* prefixt to light the *people* unto their duty; for which he was ſent for up (the ſecond time) with a *Troope* of *Horſe*: but eſcaping from them, he came of his owne *accord* to his *priſon*, deſirous to make his *anſwer*, which they finde no leiſure yet to hearken to. Nay, they will not permit that holy man Maſter *Thruſh*, *croſſe*, to teach *Whitehall* to continue *loyall*, and a *Proteſtant*. He ſeem'd to taske the Juſtice of this *bloudy* Warre, with reflection upon this *new* deſigne, and preſently an *inquiſition* is made after him, and the *Sunday* following a *Guard* is ſet upon every Gate, (if not for other malicious ends likewiſe) to fright him from the *Pulpit*. This is their account of *ſcandalous* Miniſters, whom they would have, either *rooted out*, or *ſilenced*.

Another *project* to advance *Religion* was, the taking the *Clergy* off from *Temporall* imployments; and this is ſtretcht ſo far, that they are reputed *Excentrickes*, as moving out of the *ſphere* of their calling, if they ſtudy to preach downe *Rebellion* and *diſobedience*. And yet all the world knowes, their owne *Clergy* have beene as active *inſtruments* here, as Mr *Henderſon* in the State affaires of *Scotland*. Doctor *Burgeſſe* (we find him at every turne) and Mr *John Sedgewicke*, muſt be made Members of a *Sub-Committee*, for advancement of monies. Nay, the *Doctor* (who hath obtain'd the Title of a *Colonell* this *Military Commencement*, for riding to encourage the worke, with his caſe of Piſtols) was ſo officious as to aſſiſt *Plundering* at the *Globe* Taverne in *Holborne*. And there is not a deſigne, but *theſe* men have a *finger* in it, and of their *tongues* more then their ſhare.

We have ſeene how faithfully they have fought for the Church:

Church: they promiſed and proteſted they did as much (and they have done no leſſe) for the *King* and *Kingdome*. That this warre was for the defence of the Kings *Perſon* is ſuch a pretence as honeſt men are aſhamed of, and all men laugh at, unleſſe you can perſwade them, you teach your bullets to diſtinguiſh as nicely as your ſelves, between the Kings *Perſonall* commands, and his *Perſon*. Thoſe that have heard it delivered for ſound doctrine (and without controll) that the King might have beene killed in the *crowd* with a good Conſcience, and have ſeene what *Regiments* and *Troops*, were moſt aimed at (according to Captaine *Blagues* directions) at *Keinton* battell, and heard the bullets ſing about His Majeſties eares, cannot beleeve you did more then complement, when you ſtiled His royall perſon *Sacred*; unleſſe you can change the property of *Sacred* Perſons, as well as of *Sacred* things, which you go about (though all men account it *Sacriledge*) to *alienate*. And how ſhould wee beleeve you would fight for the defence of His *Perſon*, when you ſeize upon all His proviſions, that if you cannot do it by the *ſword*, you may murder him by *famine*? But admit they fight not for the defence of his royall perſon, yet they may fight for his *Crowne* and *Dignity*: this hath beene much pretended to, and that they did ſo in ſome ſence, may very well be beleeved. But in earneſt, how can we be perſwaded they tender the *Honour* of the Crowne, when they imploy their *Rabbies* to ſatisfie (if it were poſſible) mens conſciences in a wilfull and groundleſſe diſobedience, by returning ill languages to ſober and ſolid arguments againſt it? How do they maintaine *Prerogative*, when they pretend to a power *Coordinate* with their Soveraigne, and ſet up men to cleare the Title for them, though they have no *evidence*, but ſuch as was never ſeene by our wiſe *Anceſtours*? The very name of *Monarch* implies a *ſoleſhip* of Government, to them that underſtand it. If the *Monarchy* be mixt, 'tis not ſo, as if the Soveraignty were ſhared amongſt *diverſe*, for that were a meere *Bull*: But this mixture conſiſts of theſe two *ingredients*, viz. *ſettled* law, and (where a law is not ſettled) the *diſcretion* and *prudence* of the Governour. In making lawes (wherein their chiefe power

consisteth) they may propound and consent, but it lies still in the Kings power to refuse, or ratifie. If the power of the *three* Estates be *Coordinate*, and the rule hold (as the *Fuller answer* will have it) *Coordinata se invicem supplent*, Coordinates supply one another, hee presently brings the *three* Estates into the *House* of Commons (and they delegate the power to a close Committee) and so makes them a Court of *Record* to give *oath*, *commit*, and *sentence* at their pleasure (as they have done too many) and every *Vote* of theirs (though the King and the Lords dissent from it) by vertue of this power of *Supplying* inherent in them, shall be made an *Act* of Parliament. And if the King be brought thus low, shall he stand there? shall he not from *Coordinate* be brought a step lower, and be made *subordinate*? why, yes, that is another *Doctrine*, He is *Universis minor*, a Subject to all his Subjects; and those *mistakes*, which were so often condemned as breaches of their *priviledges*, were nothing else but so many acts of His Majesties *disobedience*. And His people being *greater* then hee, and *above* him, may take his owne *Forts* and *Armes*, to *reduce* and *compell* him. Was there ever any *Jesuite* outwent them in defending the *rights* of Kings? Some are so tender of His Majesties Crowne that they are not ashamed to say the oath of *Allegeance* was never made to bind the *Protestants*, but the *Papists* onely.

If they fight not for the rights of the *Crowne*, perhaps they fight for the Rights of *Parliament*. That hath beene pretended too, yet who ever broke the *Priviledges* thereof more, then tumults of their owne countenancing and raising? The *carriages* which themselves onely have managed, have brought *Parliaments* under so much prejudice and disparagement, that the ceremony of a due reverence, will be as much denyed unto them as unto any thing else, till some other course be taken to restore them to their *Ancient* reputation.

Their *Plea* for the *Lawes* of the *Land* is no lesse vaine: for if they had any Law for their proceedings, there should be no need of so many strange *wilde*, and *never-before-heard of Ordinances*. Insomuch as the *Contra-Replicant* confesseth on their behalfe, in this manner. *Nothing has done us*

more

more harme of late, then this opinion of adhering to law onely for our preſervation. It would be good to adde more (*arbitrary*) *power to the Earle of* Eſſex, *for* (ſaith hee) *till I ſee him lookt upon and ſerved as a temporary* Dictator, *and the bounds of his Commiſſion to be onely thus*; Ne quid detrimenti capiat Reſpublica cavere: *I ſhall never thinke the Parliaments ſafety ſufficiently provided for.* The *Law* then is not the thing you fight for, for you fight againſt it. And the *Judges* ſit in the houſe for *Ciphers*, as the *Clergy* in the Convocation.

Do you fight to maintaine the *Liberty* of the Subject? Indeed you ſtand deeply engaged to do your beſt for *that*; for it was never ſo infringed ſince the *Conqueſt*, as it hath beene by your ſelves ſince you have taken the charge of the *Militia*. If we calculate the number of *Priſoners*, who have been committed this yeare, we ſhall find *hundreds* reſtrained of their *liberty* moſt unjuſtly; for Maſter *Pym* told us in the name, and as the *ſence* of both Houſes (in that ſpeech at *Guild Hall*) *That it is againſt the rules of juſtice, that any men ſhould be impriſoned upon a generall charge, when no particulars are proved againſt them*; and yet we know no particulars were proved or alleaged againſt the Lord of *Middleſex*, the Lord of *Portland*, &c. How many men petitioning for inlargement, when no *charge* could be brought againſt them, have notwithſtanding beene detained in priſon, becauſe they had not contributed to the maintenance of the warre? And if it be ſo farre from truth, that any *particulars* have beene proved, that not ſo much as a generall *charge* hath beene produced, then either Maſter *Pym* in the name of the Houſe abuſes the ſence of the Houſe, or elſe their impriſonment is againſt the *rules of juſtice*. But perhaps theſe *rules* of juſtice are made in favour of *Iſaac Pennington*, and his three fellow Citizens, *Kimbolton*, and the *five members*. Such men as *theſe*, that are members of the Houſe, or engaged in their ſervice, *theſe* men may not be impriſoned upon a *generall* charge, though it be a charge of *high* treaſon. And yet I muſt tell you, if this be a true *maxime* of State, it is the greateſt *Solœciſme* that can be imagined, and I am ſure, contrary to the practice of alll *Judiciall* proceedings upon *criminall* cauſes;

For

For if there ſhould be no impriſonment upon a *generall* charge before particulars are proved, then there can be no Commitment before ſome kind of *tryall*, and a *Conſtable* could not apprehend a *felon*, (though he had a Warrant for it) without offending againſt the *rules* of Juſtice; for his apprehenſion is an impriſonment and yet no *particulars* proved; which (ſaies Mr *Pym*, ſpeaking the ſence of both Houſes) is againſt the *rules* of Juſtice. Well! if ſuch an impriſonment be againſt the *rules* of Juſtice, we are taught from the priſons, the way to the unjuſteſt *Court* extant. And if thoſe *rules* had beene as well obſerved on the behalfe of *all* His Majeſties good ſubjects, as they have beene ſoundly preach't to *ſome* of them, there had not beene that need (as we ſee there is) of a *Monthly* conſecration of new priſons. But perhaps the ſence of the Houſe is, that the *King* cannot commit to priſon upon a *generall* charge, when no particulars are proved (His Majeſties power hath beene cut very ſhort of late.) But the Houſes being more *indulgent* to their owne priviledges, may *Carve* themſelves a power of a greater latitude (and they have carved themſelves very freely of the prerogative of the Crowne) and as occaſion ſerve declare and uſe it. They may commit upon a *due information*, without any proofe of particulars. (and this is a new created priviledge of the Houſe of Commons, which heretofore could commit none but their owne Members) Maſter *Pym* in his ſaid ſpeech declares the practice of the Houſe, *That they never have committed any man, but ſuch men as by due information* (and perhaps not ſo due neither) *they conceived to be ſeditious perſons, and like to trouble the peace of the State.* What! againſt the rules of Juſtice to impriſon any men upon a *generall* charge (though of high treaſon) when no *particulars* are proved, and in his *next* obſervation but one, men committed upon *Informations* and *conceipts*? what is become of the *rules* of juſtice now? or what is become of the *Gentlemans* memory? If he hath forgot his owne *rules* of Juſtice ſo ſuddenly, we may ceaſe to wonder, that he hath forgot the *rule* of our law, which he ſo much magnified in his ſpeech upon the *Attainder* of the Earle of *Stafford*. But what! have they committed no man

but

428

but ſuch as by *due information* they conceived ſeditious? I beleeve none but ſuch as they *conceived* ſeditious. *Conceit* doth much: and if they *conceive* a man ſo, they never *travaile* long, before their *Sergeant* playes the Midwife, and aſſiſts them to bring him forth *ſuch* as they had conceived him to be. But we much doubt, whether this were alwaies by due information; for we know ſome, that after three weekes impriſonment (and no hearing) put in baile, and within a forthnight returned out of the Countrey, continued in priſon a good while longer; and at laſt, the information was found ſo *undue*, that they were diſmiſſed. And we have ſeene an Order under Maſter *Lawr. Whitakers* hand, that ſuch *Gentlemen* ſhould be moved to bring in the *accuſation* againſt ſuch priſoners; and if none could be found, that then they might be diſcharged. When the High *Sheriffe* of *Eſſex* pleaded, he had done nothing; (knowing innocence was wont to be a faire excuſe) the *Speaker* told him, They did commit him for *prevention*. Where is the *due information* now, upon which priſoners are committed? Nay, theſe great *Aſſertors* of the Subjects *liberty*, have reſtrained the *gray* haires to their great hazard. Alderman *Backhouſe*, not ſo rich as honeſt. And Archdeacon *Hilliar*, though above 80 yeares of age, and ſo infirme, that he had beene a long time bed-rid, for refuſing to pay downe 800', was carried five miles from *Exceter* to be ſhipt away, to the endangering of his life. And Sir *George Whitmore*, very aged, was ſhipt away for *Yarmouth*, and could not have the liberty of a *Coach* for his health, though he promiſed to be at the charge of any *guard*, they ſhould thinke fit to ſend downe with him. Have not ſome Parliament men come upon the *Bench*, and forbad the Judges granting of *Habeas Corpuſſes*: can we then thinke theſe to be the *practices* of men, that ſtand for the *liberty* of the Subject?

If they have forborne us in the *liberty* of our Perſons, they have paid us in the *property* of our Goods. Since they have applyed the *ſword*, we are ſo farre from recovery, that the *Inciſion* they have made renders our *cure* worſe then ever our *diſeaſe* was. Our *property* received a little *ſcratch* by the point of *prerogative* before, but now by the *priviledge* of Parliament

the *point* of the ſword hath made the wound *deſperate*. When we read this queſtion propounded by one of their great *Clerkes* (in his anſwer to the frivolous paper, for ſo he is pleaſed to ſtile the Petition for Peace:) *Have they* (the two Houſes) *not us at ſuch advantage, that they may undoe us every houre?* Truly, till we had found they had made ſo ample *proofe* of their ability that way, we had thought it had beene but a *Paradox*, or at moſt but an *Article* of their *State-Creed*; We never dream't it would have beene made a *piece* of their *Commandements*. We muſt confeſſe you *ſweetned* the cup before you gave us our *bane* in it. Our reſtraint is mollified by the fine tearme of *ſecuring* our perſons, (we pray this ſecuring may not be extended to cutting of our throats.) And for our *eſtates*, you are too mercifull to deſtroy them at *one* blow; you will have but a *twentieth* part at once, that they may *conſume* and *bleed* to death gently. What comes *freely* from us you accept of kindly, and we had thought you had given us the *publike faith* for an *Acquittance*, (till we ſee you come now againe) that we might not have beene *cozened* to pay the ſame ſcore *twice* over. But we muſt tell you, when we are come to our *ruine*, it will be all one to us, whether we were led by the backe ſtaires with *Ceremony*, or thrown down *headlong* to it. And we take it more unkindly to be *led* downe by thoſe we put in truſt, then if we had been maliciouſly *precipitated* by others. And if you have forgotten the *Antidote* you gave us, we meane the *Proteſtation*, it workes too much upon us to be forgotten, and by vertue of that we ſhall joyne our ſelves to *repell* that violence, which hath been too long offered to the *property* of our *eſtates*, and *liberty* of our perſons.

Having taken this ſtrict view of ſo many particular *pretences*, and finding them but colourably alleadged, what *aires* can we imagine, they ſhould heare ſo pleaſing in the ſound of the *Drum* and *Trumpet*, to bewitch them to continue this moſt unnaturall and moſt bloudy Warre? And what advantage will accrue to the whole Kingdome (for we would not be engaged further in the quarrell for particular mens ends and benefit) to countervaile the charge of our expences? Is it the *Militia*

that

that we fight for, and will nothing make you forbeare the *uſe* of the ſword, till you have gotten the full *power* of it? then we muſt profeſſe His Majeſtie hath not given ſo much as a colourable *grounde* for this quarrell; unleſſe it be thought ground enough for his ſubjects to quarrell on, that His Majeſtie does not as *unreaſonably* reſigne up all his juſt rights, as you demand them of Him. If His Majeſtie delights in *Peace*, and to ſee His Subjects flouriſh under it, (as the long experience of His gracious diſpoſition ſheweth) what uſe have you for a *Militia*? I pray God reſtore us to that *happineſſe* which we enjoyed, when the *ſword* and *ſheath* too were both in the Kings owne keeping. Is a Warre the way to *conquer* the Kings affections? and doe we thinke to *force* Acts of grace from Him? Your *ſword* is like to be the way which God hath appointed for you to make Him glorious; but remember you may have need enough to finde Him *gracious*, and therefore provoke His Majeſtie no further unto a juſt *ſeverity*.

Is the quarrell continued for *Delinquents*? then you ſhould have done well to have ſet the King a *precedent*, in delivering Alderman *Pennington* and the reſt to a legall *tryall*. That would have beene a faire invitation to His Majeſtie to have reſigned up thoſe that are about Him, to the proofe of their innocency. And whatever the Author of *Plaine Engliſh*, and other ſeditious and ſchiſmaticall *Clergy-men*, (that cannot be preferred for their merit, and therefore ſeeke it by faction) what ever theſe men are afraid of, if you have retained the integrity of *honeſt* men, and worthy *Patriots*, you may dare to abide the iſſue of a preſent *Accommodation*. And let me tell you, if *thoſe* about His Majeſtie laying downe their *relation* to the Houſe of Parliament, (the priviledges whereof, if any were to this purpoſe, are as common and beneficiall to *them*, as to *your ſelves*) offer to ſubmit to a *legall* tryall (as Subjects ſhould doe) *when the Government and knowne Lawes may have their free courſe*; and you being under as *high* a charge, can plead nothing but *priviledge* of Parliament for your juſtification, and in the interim refuſe to ſubmit to the like *legall* tryall, you muſt needs be reputed *Delinquents* indeed, whileſt *they* are cleared

by the *verdict* of every *impartiall* Judgement. And if you have gone so farre *beyond* and *against* the Law, that you are growne afraid to be try'd by it, what shall we conclude from hence but this, that you have undertaken this *Warre* in the prosecution of some *new* designe, and not (as hath been all this while pretended) for the security of our *old* Protestant Religion, Rights, and Liberties?

That this designe was the *subversion* of the *ancient* Governement of the *Church* and *Kingdome*, is upon these *grounds* more then probable.

That a *change* was aim'd at in the Church, no man can deny; and it is made evident, 1. By the *suspending* of all Ecclesiasticall *Lawes* and *Censures*, (according to *ancient* Constitutions) insomuch as *Incest*, *Rapes*, and all *Vices* have gone unpunished: and this *Jubilee* of *Indulgence* hath drawne all *offenders* to comply with them. 2. By setting the people a-worke (for some *Close Committee* was the first wheele that moved this businesse) to *petition* against the *present Governement* and *Service* of the Church. 3. By the *Bill* long *debated*, and since *concluded on*, for the *abolishing* of that *Governement*. 4. By the chiefe persons, countenanced and imploy'd in the businesse, who were *Brownists*, *Anabaptists*, and all sorts of *Sectaries* and *Schismaticks*.

The *Patrimony* of the Church was to be *alienated* under a *pretence* of establishing a preaching Ministry throughout the Kingdome: but the truth is, if their *zeale* had beene but in a *seventh* degree so *hot* for that good worke, as it was for *fighting* for a *bad* one, they might have finisht it for a *twentieth* part of that charge, which they have in a *desperate* fury put the Kingdome to. Now we beleeve, if the *Revenue* of the Church were at their *disposall*, they would change those *colours*, (which they have worne so long for fashion-sake) and make the religious charity of their *Ancestors* for the advancement of Gods worship, under a learned Ministry, serve onely to disingage their *publike faith*, which is not like to be *saving faith* otherwise.

When the *Governement* of the Church had beene *subverted*, the

the deſigne was then to be put in execution upon *Monarchy*: This is not a groundleſſe *conjecture*, if we conſider theſe *evidences*.

1. That *Declaration* upon the Earle of *Straffords* ſuffering, with this *caution*, that it might not be drawne into example for the future. Certainly this was with an eye to that *ſubverſion* of Government which themſelves (I meane the *Projectors* of this deſigne) intended; that being more guilty of the ſame *crime*, by vertue of ſuch a *Declaration*, they might be ſecured from the puniſhment.

2. The pulling downe of ſo many *Courts* of Juſtice, (which were thought to be of very good uſe, in the times of our wiſe *Anceſtors*; and if there be no way of *Reformation* left, when *exorbitances* are crept into *Courts* and *callings*, but their *extirpation*, as their practice hath beene of late, what will the *doome* be of the *Supreame Court*, and the ſeverall *callings* of the Kingdome?) with a notable blow at the *Councel-Table*. Theſe may relieve a *part* of the *Subjects* from ſome preſſures; but if ſomething be not ſetled in their *roome*, may encourage others in *licenciouſneſſe*, and prove the *Prodromes* (as we ſee by theſe beginnings) to the ruine of our *Monarchy*.

3. The *nineteene* Propoſitions, whereby the King was demanded to lay downe His *Crowne*, to *compound* for His Peace with them.

4. That expreſſion (ſo little underſtood, and ſo much talk't of in many of their *papers*) of a power of *reſuming* the truſt, which is falſely pretended to be *derived unto His Majeſtie by the meere humane pactions and agreements of the politique body of the people*. And,

5. According to this *Doctrine*, their pretending to, and uſurping of the power of the *Militia*, both by *Sea* and *Land*.

6. Their *actuall exerciſeing* of this power in diſpoſing of *offices*, having made their *Speaker* Maſter of the Rowles.

Laſtly, that expreſſion of the *Gentlemans* to Sir *Edward Deering*, (when he was *privy* to ſome of their *Cabinet conſultations*) *That if they could bring downe the Lords to the Houſe*

of Commons, and make the King as one of the Lords, the worke were done. It ſeemes they intended to reſerve the honour of the *Chaire* for His *Majeſtie*, when they had taken downe His *Throne*; and it might have beene His good fortune to have had a *caſting* voice, though he is now denied His *negative* one amongſt them. This *plot* was laid, and this *deſigne* in agitation (though it be a *night-piece*, which few have hitherto diſcover'd fully) before the Warre commenced; and in order to this *worke*, without doubt the *Militia* was firſt exerciſed, and the *Scots* a ſecond time invited. (But we hope their *Commiſſioners* that taſted ſo much of the late *feaſt*, will not encourage their *brethren* to the *fray*.)

When wee conſider theſe things, adding to them thoſe bloudy *Treaſons* uttered publikely (without checke) as well againſt the whole *Line* of the *Bloud Royall*, as againſt the *ſacred* Perſon of our Soveraigne, and thoſe ſeverall *aſſaults* made upon *them*; our *haire* begins to ſtand upright on our *heads*, and our *conſciences* often reflect upon our *oathes* of *Allegeance* and *Supremacy*, together with our late *Proteſtation*; whereby we ſtand obliged, to our utmoſt power, to maintaine His *Majeſties* Royall *Perſon*, *Crowne* and *Dignity*, againſt all treacherous practices, that may ruine, diſhonour, or impaire them, and ſo by Gods helpe we will doe. And finding His *Majeſties* late Propoſitions (as His Meſſages formerly) ſo juſt and reaſonable, as nothing can be more, and yet ſo little liſtened after for our peace: We adviſe all our *Knights* and *Burgeſſes* to *vote* no more againſt our gracious *Soveraigne*, or the peace of the Kingdome, that they make no further uſe of our owne truſt to murder us; for 'tis not our ſence that they ſhould proceed to *ſhed* the bloud of the *ungodly*, (as they tearme them) when they meane all ſuch as diſſent from their wilde opinions. And as we doe *proteſt* againſt ſuch *Ordinances* as are made againſt the *King*, or without His *conſent*, ſo ſhall we withdraw our *truſt* and power of *repreſentation* from ſuch as ſhall goe on to abuſe it. And finding no poſſibility of peace, till the *packe* (that contrived this *new* deſigne, and this Warre in order to the effecting

fecting of it) be new *ſhuffled*, we ſhall joyntly labour to *ſhuffle* that *packe*, and diſſolve that *knot* wherein we ſee our miſeries are *tyed*; and (after due *election* of new *Members* into their places) reſolve to call them to a ſtrict *account* for betraying our *truſt*, interrupting our *peace*, and violating all our *ancient* liberties, and ſhall not doubt of the aſſiſtance of all good men to effect it.

PSAL. 5. 6.

Thou (O God) ſhalt deſtroy them that ſpeake lies: The Lord will abhorre both the bloud-thirſty and deceitfull man.

FINIS.

Faults eſcaped in ſome Copies.

PAge 4. l. 12. *r.* every man's. l. 17. *for* die *r.* vie. p. 23. l. 27. *for* five *r.* ſome. p. 34. l. 3. *r.* late examples. p. 35. l. 3. *r.* And how muſt. p. 34. l. 29 *adde* Maſter *Caſe* officiates at *London*, and leaves his Cure in *Cheſhire* to be ſupply'd by *Rawbone* an illiterate Lay man.